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BENNETT'S
ACCOUNT
OF
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE
ACCOUNT OF
SOUTH AUSTRALIA:
FOUNDED ON THE EXPERIENCE
OF
A THREE YEARS' RESIDENCE IN THAT
COLONY.

BY J. F. BENNETT.

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APPENDIX.

P R E F A C E.

IN presenting the following pages to the Public, the writer has only one object in view, and that is to place the British Public, and especially that portion of it which takes an interest in Emigration in general, and South Australian Emigration in particular, as well as such as may entertain an intention of emigrating, in possession of a plain unvarnished statement of facts, as to the character and capabilities of a Colony which has never been fairly represented in this country—a Colony which has been slandered by enemies interested elsewhere on the one hand, and perhaps as much injured by the well-meant but injudicious statements of its friends on the other—a Colony which has had to grapple with difficulties and anomalies of no ordinary kind—a Colony which, I feel convinced, must ere long rank high among the Foreign possessions of this vast empire.

There have been various writers on South Australia, from most of whom I have found it necessary to differ on many points; and while I claim no superiority over any one of these gentlemen either in point of talent, sagacity, or erudition, I claim, and think I am fully entitled to, one advantage over them all—namely, that of speaking from

personal observation and experience on every point mooted. This, it will be admitted I think, is no inconsiderable advantage, inasmuch as some of those who have already written regarding the Colony never saw it at all, while others formed their opinions upon a residence of a few days, or weeks at most, and that at the period of its infancy—their observations being confined to the then insignificant, and of course uncomfortable, town of Adelaide, and to the few miles of plain which lie between the capital and the harbour.

One gentleman some time ago stated before a Committee of the House of Commons, that his opinion regarding the Colony, which was an unfavourable one, was founded on a journey to the summit of Mount Lofty, and he understood that, in that journey, he had passed through the best districts of South Australia. Will it be believed, that the only country he passed through, was part of an indifferently good plain—the greater part of his route being across a range of mountains?

To remove the unwarranted and injurious misconceptions caused by such statements, has been my chief object in penning the present publication—an object which I considered important, and called for in justice both to the Colony and the British public. I have, therefore, given the result of my observations and experience during the three years I resided in South Australia, extending from the 19th March, 1839, to the 14th March, 1842. I have painted nothing too bright; nor have I endeavoured to slur over or hide any dark spots.

It will also be observed that I have carefully avoided a

comparison with any of the other Colonies. I have visited both New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land; but I have no intention or wish to decry any of these places, or to endeavour to advance the cause of South Australia at the expense of any other Colony. On the contrary, I conceive the interest of one Australian settlement to be incorporated with that of those that surround it; and I have no sympathy with those writers who cry up their own favourite Colony, and abuse all and sundry those in its neighbourhood. Australia contains within her vast bounds the ingredients of a great nation, and ere many years elapse, I have no doubt but the sanguine anticipation of a zealous friend will be realised, and that she will bid fair to "rival the United States of America."

I may simply mention, that the general description of South Australia will, with few exceptions, apply to the other Colonies of New South Wales, Port Phillip, and Van Diemen's Land.

CHAP. I.

GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION—ESTABLISHMENT— HISTORY.

“Vast was the toil to found the Roman State!”

It is, I presume, pretty generally known that **SOUTH AUSTRALIA** is a portion of the Island New Holland—now more popularly known as Australia.

I am induced to believe, however, that beyond this bare fact, a great portion of the British public is still in ignorance of anything regarding that Colony. Even its relative position towards the other Australian settlements seems to be by many unknown. As a proof of this, it is a common occurrence for emigrants leaving England to be furnished with huge bundles of letters addressed to parties in Port Philip, Sydney, Hobart Town, or Launceston—places hundreds of miles apart; and many documents pass through the post-office addressed “Adelaide, New South Wales,” while others are to be seen marked for Sydney, or Melbourne, South Australia. Nay, I have even seen in a Scottish newspaper, a ship advertised to sail from Scotland for Adelaide, with liberty to call at New Zealand! And in some of the London journals announcements have appeared, within these few weeks, of ships having sailed with convicts for South Australia—a place that the laws forbid any such persons to be sent to.

To remove such erroneous ideas, a few remarks only will be necessary.

The Island of New Holland is one of immense extent, stretching from the 115th to the 152d degree of East Longitude; and from the 11th to the 39th degree of South Latitude.

The East coast of this Island is called New South Wales; the capital of which, Sydney, is a large and flourishing town, built on the shores of Port Jackson. In the immediate neighbourhood is Botany Bay, which has long been known as the destination of those who have made themselves amenable to the laws of this country. About 500 miles to the southward and westward of Sydney is Port Philip, a newly settled and flourishing district, tributary to New South Wales, and having Melbourne for its capital. Adjoining Port Philip on the west is South Australia, the boundaries of the latter place being—on the east the 141st degree of East Longitude, on the west the 132d degree of East Longitude, on the north the 26th degree of South Latitude, and on the south the sea coast. The superficies of the Colony contains about 200,000,000 square acres; and it is thus nearly twice as large as Great Britain and Ireland together.

The present Settlement, however, covers only a small portion of those large bounds, and is situated towards the centre of the province, the capital being in Long. 138½ East, and Lat. 36 degrees South. It is distant from Port Philip between 500 and 600 miles, and is twice that distance from Sydney.

Van Diemen's Land is an Island lying to the South of New Holland, and separated from the Port Philip district by Bass's Straits, a passage of moderate breadth, studded with several islands. Launceston is on the north.

Hobart Town on the south, of Van Diemen's Land; the former is about 600 miles, the latter 800 miles, distant from Adelaide, in South Australia.

On the west coast of New Holland is the small Settlement of Swan River, or Western Australia. Its distance from South Australia is nearly 1200 miles. New Zealand is about 1000 miles to the eastward of Australia. By keeping these facts in his memory, the reader will avoid the very common error of confusing one Australian Colony with another.

The rapidly improving state of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land about ten years ago, and the important position which they began to assume among the Colonies of Britain, proved the means of drawing the attention of many gentlemen of capital and influence in that direction. The accounts of the climate and soil of these places, were very favourable; but their social condition, produced by their being penal settlements, was held by many as an insuperable objection to them as favourable fields for free emigration. A proposition was therefore made to form a new and free Colony in some other part of Australia which should be beyond the pale of convict contamination; and the southern coast, from its geographical position, added to such vague reports as had been received regarding it, was looked on as a favourable locality wherein to found the proposed Colony.

An Association was therefore formed for carrying out the project, for which purpose the primary object was to obtain the sanction and protection of the British Government. This, however, was found to be no easy matter, as the projectors of the scheme were looked on as holding visionary ideas; and it was not until the most strenuous and persevering efforts had been made, that Government

could be induced to listen to their representations. At last, however, the Association succeeded in carrying their point, and a Bill was passed through Parliament authorising the establishment of a British Colony within the limits already mentioned—to be called South Australia.

A new mode of Colonization was about this time brought forward by Mr. Wakefield, the theory of which was highly approved of by those who had imbibed the idea of forming the new settlement in Australia, and as this plan was adopted as the groundwork of the new Colony, a sketch of its principal features may be given here.

Prior to this, the mode in which all Colonial Lands were disposed of was, to give free grants to almost any person who chose to apply for them—especially to those who had a little capital. The consequence of this was, that nearly all the Settlers in these Colonies became landed proprietors, and labourers to cultivate the soil could scarcely be got.

To remedy this—to maintain a due proportion between capital and labour, and likewise to afford a supply of the latter according to the demand—the plan now proposed embraced the following principles:—No land was to be granted except to those who were prepared to pay a certain price per acre for it—and this purchase money was to go towards a fund intended to be applied in giving free passages to the Colony to properly qualified labourers and mechanics, their wives and families.

Another novelty in the proposed system was, that no assistance was to be asked or received from the mother country, but that the new settlement should bear all its own charges, and have the principal management of its own affairs. To provide for the necessary expenses of founding the Colony, and carrying it on until revenues

should arise, power was given to raise on bonds a certain sum of money, which was to be held as a debt on the Colony, secured on the lands, and the interest to be paid out of the Colonial Revenue. It was also stipulated, that no convicts should ever be sent thither, and that as soon as a population of 50,000 souls had been collected in the Colony, it should be entitled to a Representative Legislature.

Such were the principal features of the New Scheme, and although the establishment of a Colony on the verge of the earth, without external assistance, was looked on by many as a hazardous undertaking, and the other "principles" were ridiculed by numbers, both publicly and privately, yet the promoters of the plan had confidence in it; and accordingly, having received the sanction of the Imperial Legislature, the scene of their future operations was declared a British Colony. Captain HINDMARSH of the Royal Navy was appointed to hold the office of Governor, and Colonel Light, an able Surveyor, accompanied by assistants, was despatched to explore the country, and fix on a site for the Settlement.

A Commission was likewise appointed to manage the Sales of the Colonial Lands, and to conduct the selection and despatch of Emigrants—as these matters were not to be interfered with by Government. Mr. James Hurtle Fisher, an English Barrister, received the appointment of Colonial Agent for these Commissioners, with the title of Resident Commissioner. This Commission, in pursuance of the power to borrow already mentioned, raised the sum of £84,000 on bond, at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum.

. All preliminaries being thus arranged, and a consider-

able sum of money lodged in the Commissioners' hands,* for which the parties received documents entitling them to a selection of land, at the price of *twelve shillings* per acre, on their arrival out, the Emigrants began to take their departure for the distant country.

The Surveyor-General was, at his departure from England, vested with power to fix on a site for a township, which would be expected to adjoin some navigable water, and to have in its vicinity good land for tillage and pasture. So little, however, was known of the country at that time, that whether the capital should be fixed on Kangaroo Island, at Port Lincoln, or on the east shore of St. Vincent's Gulf, was an uncertainty when he left. It became necessary, then, that Colonel Light should visit all these places, and decide which possessed most advantages. In this manner a considerable space of time was consumed; but at last, a rising ground, pleasantly situated in the midst of an extensive plain, about five miles inland from St. Vincent's Gulf, and about six miles from a very safe and commodious harbour which had been discovered, was determined on as the site of the future Capital. Here, accordingly, the Surveyors pitched their tents, and commenced laying out the plan of the town.

In the meantime, several ships had arrived from England, and the Emigrants, finding no land surveyed, were at a loss what to do. Some settled themselves on Kangaroo Island, where a company, previously formed in England,

* Although the Act of Parliament was passed in August, 1834, it was not to come into operation unless land to the value of £35,000 was sold within a limited period; and in order to effect this, the price was reduced from *one pound* to *twelve shillings* per acre—one hundred and thirty-four acres of Country, and one acre of Town Land, being given for £81. Hence the "Preliminary Sections," as those originally purchased were termed, consisted of 134 acres, instead of 80 acres as at present.

under the title of the South Australian Company, had founded an establishment; but the greater part pitched their tents on a plain, close to the beach, at Holdfast Bay—an anchorage a few miles south of the newly discovered harbour—there to await the progress of the survey.

When the site of the Capital was at last fixed, most of the Emigrants removed thither. Still, as the lands were not yet laid out, and consequently no one knew what spot was to fall to his lot, the Emigrants were under the necessity of forming another temporary encampment on the banks of the River which runs through the Town, and which had been named the Torrens, in honour of the gentleman who was at the head of the Commissioners in London.

Here, then, temporary dwellings were erected of such materials as were most easily procured—these consisting chiefly of turf, mud, and reeds. Many of the dwellings then erected were still standing when I reached the Colony, early in 1839, and were inhabited by parties who had not been enabled to get a house in the “City”—or who chose to submit to inconvenience for a time in order to save rent.

These huts were scattered about without any attempt at regularity or uniformity. Every man had built his *house* on the spot which whim or chance pointed out, or where material was easiest got; and the consequence was, that a collection of as primitive-looking wigwams as can be well imagined soon lined the banks of the Torrens—some of them facing the east—some the west—in fact, every point of the compass might have claimed one or more facing towards it. They stood just as though a mad bull had been playing his antics among them, and had tossed them hither and thither. Nor was the appearance of the

dwellings less amusing or extraordinary than their general positions. The walls of some were not more than four or five feet high—some were humpbacked—others *au contraire*—some were built of mud, interlaced with branches, with a few reeds, or a piece of old canvas, for a roof—others were composed of turf—and some entirely of reeds. Most of them possessed an aperture to afford egress and ingress ; but few, if any, could boast of a window of any kind. A fire place was not deemed essential, though several had an opening at one end, surmounted by an empty pork cask, deprived of the ends, to serve as a chimney. A great portion of the Emigrants, however, contented themselves without a fire, except outside, where it might be seen blazing, with a pot hung over it, *a la gypsy*. In those days houses could be bought and sold for a couple of pounds a-piece !

Such was the first settlement of the Emigrants in the new Colony, and in this miserable-looking encampment resided many most respectable gentlemen and accomplished ladies, who, now that they have got good substantial houses over their heads, and many comforts around them, look back with a kind of pleasure to the romantic situations in which they were placed in these days of colonial infancy ; and many a laugh is still raised by them among new comers in their reminiscences of these early times.

In the latter part of December, 1836, the Governor arrived in the Province. Ships were also arriving at intervals, adding to the numbers of the settlers. It was not, however, until March, 1837, that the Survey of the Town Lands was completed. During that month, such parties as had made purchases of land in England made their selection of Town Lots, and the remainder were sold by public sale to the highest bidder—the prices varying from

£2 upwards to £20 per acre. I have known many instances of parties who then purchased their land at that price, dispose of it within the ensuing three years at prices varying from £200 to £2000 per acre. It is but right to mention, however, that this immense rise in the price of Town Lands was not caused so much by an advance in *intrinsic* value, as by a spirit of speculation which raged for some time among the Colonists, and particularly among those newly arrived. These parties hearing of the rapid rise in the *actual* value of Town Lots, purchased, with the view of selling at a great profit in a short time, and thus a fictitious demand was created, and a fictitious value given to property, which could not long continue. This mania has now happily passed away, and the price of Land has fallen to its proper level, which, though many hundred per cent. above the original cost, does not approach the value imputed to it a couple of years ago.

To return, however. Each purchaser being now enabled to enter into possession of his Town Land, steps were taken towards making a move into the "City," as it was rather bombastically called, even at this early period, when a few pegs were all that marked it from the surrounding forest. The first house erected in Adelaide—the name of the new township—was a printing office, from which issued, at irregular intervals, a small newspaper, containing the official acts and orders of Government, and articles of intelligence regarding the Colony. It is rather a singular circumstance, and worthy of note, that the press should thus have been the pioneer of civilization in the new country. Such, however, is the fact, and round that palladium of freedom, thus raised by the Colonists as their standard, were rallied those bold spirits who had abandoned their native country, their friends,

and their comfortable homes, to win for themselves and their posterity a home and an independence in the wilds of that distant, and then almost unknown, "fragment" of the globe. And nobly did they rally around the standard thus raised; for on the spot which then was an interminable forest, now stands a large and populous town, containing churches, houses, shops, and other buildings, which would do no discredit to any country town of Britain. And all this has been accomplished in the short space of five years. But of this anon.

Many of the first houses erected in Adelaide were little better than those huts already described, with which were now intermixed a few wooden ones, which had been brought from England. Even in March, 1839, when I reached the Colony, Adelaide had more the appearance of a collection of booths, such as may be seen at a country fair, or on a race ground, than anything else. A few good houses had, however, been built by this time, and a still greater number were in course of erection. Brick and stone were beginning to take the place of straw and mud; and shingles and slates had partly supplanted the use of canvas and reeds; although the latter are, even up to the present time, considerably used in roofing, being by many preferred to slates or shingles. From this period the town rapidly assumed a new appearance. The old hut or tent gave way to the neat cottage, or the handsome two storey house, and a genuine specimen of the original buildings of the "City of Adelaide," is now a rarity—they are "few and far between."

So soon as the survey of Adelaide was completed, the surveyors betook themselves to the country to proceed with the rural surveys. Unpleasant feelings, however, arose among the surveyors, and through mismanagement

somewhere, very little progress was made. A bad feeling also began to spring up between the Governor and the Resident Commissioner, each seeming afraid of the other encroaching on his power or rights. Both were indeed placed in rather anomalous positions. The Governor, as such, was chief ruler; but the Resident Commissioner had the sole management of the sales of land, the only source whence money was forthcoming, while the Government was without money to pay even the salaries of its officers. There were no revenues—the land fund was sacred—the English Government could not be asked for money—and thus the Colonial Treasury existed but in name—its coffers were full of emptiness.

To raise funds, duties were imposed on imported spirits, wines, and tobacco, publicans' licenses established, and charges made on shipping. The revenue from these was, however, but small at first, and Government was already in arrear with its salaries. The Emigrants, too, began to complain of being kept so long without their land—some said one was to blame, some another, so that a complete ferment was created in the community. Two parties were formed—one favouring the Governor, the other the Resident Commissioner—the community was thus divided, each party bearing the most bitter enmity towards the other, and those who stood at the head of affairs, instead of endeavouring to quench, only added fuel to the fire. The place was thus soon involved in a complete state of anarchy and confusion. Even the Government officers were divided among themselves, and to such a height did party spirit run, that a pugilistic encounter actually took place in the public streets of the town, between two of the principal Government functionaries!

This lamentable state of matters at length reached the

ears of the Home Commission, and the English Government thereupon thought it advisable to remove from office the heads of both contending parties—the Governor and Resident Commissioner—and to take some measures calculated to ensure a more satisfactory administration of power in future. With this view, Lieut.-Colonel GAWLER received the appointment of Governor of the Colony, and with that office was conjoined the Resident Commissionership, in the hope that, by vesting both appointments in one person, no collision between the two powers could take place, and that the duties of both offices would be better executed. It was also found necessary to encroach on the principle of “self support,” on which the Colony was originally founded, and to give the new Governor power to *borrow* from the Land Fund such sums as might be necessary to carry on the Government in an efficient manner—such monies, however, to be considered as a debt to be repaid by the Colony, when *it could afford to do so*.

Colonel Gawler landed in South Australia in October, 1838, and soon found that the reports which had reached England of the disjointed state of society among the Settlers had not been exaggerated. However, by immediately adopting bold and decisive measures, and by a decision and firmness of character well calculated for such an emergency, he soon succeeded in calming the tumult, and introducing a better state of things. By this time, too, a considerable quantity of land had been surveyed and allotted to the Settlers,* who then began to find an outlet to their industry, more advantageous than squab-

* The first selection of country lands took place in May, 1838. The selections were made by ballot—the holders of *preliminary* land orders having the first choice, and afterwards such parties as had purchased subsequently.

bling one with another. The best results followed—in a short time the discord which at first shook the little settlement to its centre passed away, and by degrees was forgotten, and a general good feeling was re-established among the Colonists, which, up the present time, has not been broken.

Impressed with an anxious desire for the advancement of the Colony, but with a liberality of expenditure which many considered unwarranted in its circumstances, the new Governor set a great many improvements on foot, all of which were conducted in a highly creditable manner. Among other things, he built an extensive and well-finished Government House, commodious offices for the various Government departments, a Customhouse, a Jail, an Hospital, and other buildings and works of various kinds. The Survey department was remodelled and extended, so as to become much more effective—a large police force, both foot and mounted, was embodied—roads were formed in various directions—exploring parties sent out—and everything carried on in a systematic and imposing style. This kept a large amount of capital constantly floating in the Colony, gave employment to numbers of Emigrants, and was unquestionably productive of much *temporary* good; but whether permanent benefits have resulted therefrom is a question regarding which there are various opinions, on which it is not for me to decide. My own impression however, is, and always has been, that Governor Gawler's expenditure produced bad results as well as good. It was a means of preventing people from cultivating the soil, which ought to be the first consideration in all new colonies—and the monetary crisis which at present exists in the Colony, I believe to have been, at least, considerably aggravated by it. No one, however, I

think, will deny that Colonel Gawler was actuated by a sense of acting for the good of the Colony in all his transactions; and his administration has advanced it many years as regards what he himself termed its "outfit"—namely, public buildings, wharves, roads, and such like.

In carrying on these works, large sums were expended, which were raised by bills on the Commissioners, under the authority to borrow given by Parliament. To such an amount did the Governor's drafts on the Commissioners reach at last, that the whole of the funds in their hands was exhausted, and bills still pouring in upon them, they had no alternative but to dishonour them, until they should lay the matter before Government. On intelligence of this reaching the Colony, considerable uneasiness was felt by the Settlers. The merchants had purchased the Government paper to a large amount as remittances to their correspondents in England, and the check thus given to mercantile transactions, acted injuriously not only on the merchants and dealers, but on the Colonists generally. Many tradesmen and others, too, who had been working for, or supplying articles to, Government, and who depended on punctual payments to enable them to meet their engagements, now found themselves involved—there being no funds in the Treasury to pay them. Thus the distress soon reached all classes. The tradesmen not receiving payment for their work, were of course unable to pay the hands they employed; and the merchant or dealer, who depended on Government for a considerable portion of his custom, was unable to meet his engagements. This of course involved others, so that the distress became general. About this time, too, the arrivals of monied Emigrants from England, which before had been numerous, was almost wholly suspended. This

helped to add to the already unfavourable state of things—as the constant influx of capitalists hitherto had materially assisted in keeping up the floating capital, which stood in need of constant supplies, to make up for the large sums that were being weekly paid to the neighbouring Colonies for sheep, cattle, and horses, to stock the Colony, and likewise for provisions, which had not yet been raised in anything like a sufficient quantity to support the population. These combined circumstances produced, as I have said, a great stagnation in trade, which extended to all the other Australian Settlements, and from which they have not yet recovered.

One good result of this crisis to South Australia has been, that it has forced the Settlers into the country to prosecute cultivation of the soil, and breeding sheep and cattle, on which all Colonial prosperity must be founded. In fact, the South Australians began at first at the wrong end—they commenced by building a town, ere there was any country population or country produce to support it. This was, however, more the result of circumstances which I have already mentioned, than of choice. The Emigrants were prevented from commencing cultivation on their first arrival, because there was no land surveyed; and once settled in Adelaide, and earning a livelihood there, it was a difficult matter to get them to move a second time. They were now forced to it as the only alternative, and though it would have been to the advantage of many individually, and to the Colony generally, had they done so as soon as practicable, yet it is never too late to do well, and they are now endeavouring to make up for lost time, by persevering and energetic industry, as I shall show by and bye. I shall also have occasion to allude to the “crisis” mentioned above, in a future chapter.

The Commissioners' funds being, as already mentioned, exhausted, they represented the state of affairs to Government, to ascertain what was to be done. Colonel Gawler was thereupon immediately recalled, and Parliament, by the advice of the late Administration, found it necessary to advance no less a sum than £155,000 towards the liquidation of the bills drawn by him on the Commissioners, over and above all the funds which had been in their hands.

Captain GEORGE GREY, a young military officer, who had just returned from an exploring expedition on the west coast of Australia, was then intrusted with the Government; and his arrival in the Colony took place in May, 1841—Colonel Gawler having held the reins of Government for two years and a half. Captain Grey's instructions from the Home authorities were of a very distinct nature, and by them he was restricted to an expenditure of only the Colonial Revenues, and a small sum quarterly, to be drawn from the English Treasury, until some arrangement was made for carrying on the Government of the Colony on a different footing from that hitherto pursued, as it had now become evident that the principle of "self-support," hitherto held up, was impracticable—in its strict sense at least.

An Act was accordingly passed during the last Session of Parliament, throwing this "principle" on which South Australia was originally founded, overboard, and establishing the Colony on something like the same footing as other British settlements.

This act repealed all former acts regarding the Colony, but provided that all laws passed, and all things done under authority of these acts, should be confirmed, and continue valid. It retains the original provision that no

convicts shall be sent to any place within the limits of South Australia. It provides for the constitution within the Colony of a Legislative Council, consisting of the Governor and seven other persons, to be appointed by the Sovereign, who shall have power to make laws for the peace, order, and good government of the Colony,—such laws being subject to approval or disapproval by the Home Government. It also enacts, that Her Majesty may issue instructions to convene a General Assembly, to be elected by freeholders and others in the Colony, which assembly shall have a voice in the framing of Colonial laws, and be admitted to the deliberations of the Legislative Council, and have a voice therein. This important proviso insures to the Colonists a representation of their interests in the Legislature—a boon of no trifling value.

By this act, too, the loan of £155,000 advanced by Government to take up the dishonoured Bills on the Commissioners is declared to be a *grant*, and thus a weighty burden is removed from the shoulders of the Colonists. The rate of Interest on the Bonds issued by the Commissioners to defray the original expenses of the Colony—amounting to £84,000—has also been reduced from *ten*, to *three and a half* per cent. This sum, which is a public debt owing by the Colony, was previously a burden to the amount of £8400 per annum, chargeable on the Colonial Revenues, but the Interest is now reduced to the annual payment of £2940. A further grant, in addition to the £155,000, was also voted by Parliament to the amount of £59,000, to provide for certain drafts by the late and present Governor, and to defray the current expenses of the Colonial Government during the year 1842. The remainder of the debt incurred by Col.

Gawler, amounting to about £30,000, chiefly due to persons in the Colony, is to be provided for by the issue of Colonial debentures, chargeable on the Revenues of the Colony, and bearing interest at the rate of five per cent. This imposes a farther burthen on the Colonial Revenues to the amount of £1500 annually; but the whole amount of the obligations chargeable on the Revenue is reduced to the annual payment of £4500. Thus the whole of the financial embarrassments in which the Colony was involved have been cleared up, and although it would have been desirable that the £30,000 had also been *granted* by Government, yet the issue of debentures at five per cent., under authority of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, is the next best measure, and will be productive of much good. The whole burthen on South Australia, after being fully established and completely "fitted out," amounts to the annual payment of £4500; and the act provides that the largest portion of this sum, namely, the £2940 will be chargeable on the Consolidated Fund of this country, provided the Colonial Revenues are insufficient, after defraying the expenses of the Colonial Government, for the payment thereof.

The receipt of the intelligence of the passing of this act would produce much good in the Colony. Those who were lying out of their money would either receive it, or debentures, which they could easily turn into money. Confidence would be restored, and I feel no hesitation in giving it as my opinion, that, at the moment I write this, the financial distress into which the Colony was plunged will have been much alleviated, if it has not wholly disappeared.

Another act passed during the last Session of Parliament, altered the mode of disposing of the waste lands.

This act refers to the whole of the Australian Colonies and New Zealand, as well as to South Australia; but it confers a very considerable benefit on the last-mentioned Colony, inasmuch as heretofore land was sold in South Australia at £1 per acre, while in New South Wales and the other Colonies, it was sold, in many instances, as low as 5s. per acre. This act, by placing them all on an equal footing, has consequently obtained for South Australia a decided advantage, as many parties would hitherto prefer purchasing land in New South Wales at 5s. per acre, rather than pay £1 in South Australia.

Land is now sold by auction—the upset price being one pound per acre. The sales are held quarterly, and in the intermediate time, any land which may have been offered for sale, and remained unsold, can be purchased on payment of the upset price. Parties may lodge money, as heretofore, in this country, for the purchase of land, with the Colonial Commissioners. *One half of the proceeds of all sales of land are applied for the purpose of giving free passages to the Colony to agricultural labourers and mechanics*, instead of the whole amount, as formerly.

Such is now the constitution of South Australia, and as the debt on the Revenues is but trifling, and only a moderate civil, and no military, establishment is required, there need be no apprehension that heavy taxation in the Colony will be necessary. At present there are no taxes whatever, except a rate on the Freeholders in Adelaide, imposed by the Municipal Corporation. The Revenues are derived from duties on spirits, wine, and tobacco, pilot and harbour dues, publicans' and auctioneers' licenses, fines, &c. in Courts of Law, and one-half of the purchase money of Colonial Lands, and a charge of one halfpenny per head

annually on sheep, which was volunteered by the Settlers, on condition that Government would adopt some measures to prevent the introduction or spread of the scab among their flocks.

Such is a rapid sketch of the founding and history of South Australia; but as this publication is intended to be more descriptive than historical, this Chapter is merely introduced to give the reader a general idea of the History of the Province, and of the principles on which it is established. Succeeding Chapters will treat more particularly of its advancement in the various branches of Colonial pursuits.

CHAP II.

PHYSICAL ASPECT AND NATURAL PRODUCTIONS— ANIMAL, VEGETABLE, AND MINERAL.

“A world differing from ours in its appearance, in its nations, in its climate, in its sky.”—“A land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of olive oil and honey; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass.”

ONLY a comparatively small portion of South Australia has as yet been *thoroughly* explored, and a great part of the interior is still totally unknown—shrouded behind a veil which it will, in all probability, take years to remove.

About *one-third* of the Colony has been *partly* explored; but the only portion of it which has been thoroughly examined is the district extending along the eastern shore of St. Vincent's Gulf, already mentioned as the locality in

which the present Settlement is situated. This track of country, extending from Cape Jervis on the South, in about lat. 36° , $20'$ south, to the bend of the River Murray in the N.E., in lat. 34° , and the head of Spencer's Gulf in the N.W., in 32° $30'$, and which forms a kind of Peninsula, bounded on the west by the Sea, and on the east by Lake Alexandrina and the Murray, has been all, or nearly all, minutely examined, and a great portion of the land indeed has been surveyed, and is either purchased by Settlers, or open for sale to such as may be inclined to purchase.

The Country lying to the Eastward of this Peninsula—between it and New South Wales—has been traversed by numerous parties conveying cattle and sheep across from the Sydney and Port Philip districts; but as these overland parties in most cases followed the course of the Murray River, or some other regular track, their excursions have added but little to the geographical knowledge of the Eastern part of the Province. Of the Country to the Northward of the head of Spencer's Gulf very little is known. An enterprising traveller, Mr. Eyre, was in 1840–41 entrusted with the management of an expedition fitted out by the Colonists of South Australia to explore in that direction, but his progress northwards was arrested by an immense Lake, discovered a little to the north of the head of the Gulf, stretching from east to west, which he was unable to outflank, and thus the expedition failed to effect the purpose for which it was sent out.

Most of the country to the westward of the Gulfs is also unexplored. Mr. Eyre, after abandoning his intention of penetrating into the northern interior, struck across the country to the westward, and forced his way, after undergoing many hardships, as far as King George's Sound, in

Western Australia; but, in doing so, his researches were confined to the Sea Coast, which he found lined with a track of barren country all along. Though this is unfavourable to the opinion that good land exists inland, yet it is not a sufficient reason to assert that available land may not be found. At Port Lincoln, a very commodious harbour on the west of Spencer's Gulf, a small Settlement has been formed, and a considerable district of the surrounding country explored.

In speaking, then, of the physical appearance of South Australia, my remarks shall be chiefly directed to that part of the Province which is Colonized—namely, the Peninsula on the east of St. Vincent's Gulf—a great part of which I have myself travelled over. My remarks on the other portions shall be more contracted, and founded either on official, or other information, received from parties on whose veracity I can depend.

At the southern extremity of the Peninsula mentioned, which is formed by the Gulfs on the west, and the Murray and Lake Alexandrina on the east, lies the District of Encounter Bay, consisting of several beautiful valleys, containing a fine rich soil, covered with luxuriant verdure, backed by ranges of hills of moderate elevation, mostly covered with timber, and affording good grazing for cattle and sheep. Stretching northward, ranges of barren hills and desolate-looking moors intersect the country; but along the sea coast on the west, and the shores of the Lake on the east, these are relieved by numerous valleys similar to those at Encounter Bay, consisting of fine agricultural land, covered with grass, and watered by numerous streams, springs, and lagunes. Thus, along the shores of the Gulf, in succession, lie Rapid Bay, Yankalilla, Miponga Flats, Aldinga Plains, M'Laren Vale, Onkaparinga, Morphett Vale, and

Hurtle Vale; and on the east are Currency Creek, the River Finniss, the Angas or Strathalbyn, and the River Bremer. All these vallies consist of a fine rich soil, and are surrounded by ranges of grassy hills. The whole of this country is indeed very diversified—some parts being hilly; others undulating; and at Aldinga and other places considerable spaces of level land are met with. The scenery of the vallies and surrounding hills is enticing and picturesque, but almost destitute of anything bold or striking, and presenting little variety. Some parts are heavily timbered, others assume very much the appearance of a nobleman's park, the soil being covered with a beautiful crop of verdant herbage, and thinly studded with large spreading trees. Considerable spaces also occur quite clear of timber of any description—ready, in fact, for the plough.

Immediately to the northward of Hurtle Vale, the mountain ranges which hitherto lined the coast take a direction towards the interior, and then stretch away to the northward and eastward, nearly parallel to the sea, and form the boundary of an extensive plain, which is continued to the northward for many miles. Near the southern extremity of this plain, Adelaide, the capital, is situated. This plain also presents a variety of appearance—in some places it is heavily timbered, in others it assumes the appearance of an open forest, and a considerable proportion of it, especially towards the sea coast, is quite open and free from timber. There are many thousands of acres without a tree, or even a shrub. These plains are covered with a fair coating of grass, especially during the winter season;—in summer the heat is felt more than in the higher parts, and the grass is generally much scorched. In most seasons, however, pleasant

showers fall occasionally, which refresh it. The soil of the plains is various, but mostly consists of a red, something approaching a sandy, loam ; some parts consist of a deep black soil, with other varieties. There are neither stones, rocks, nor any other obstructions, to impede the progress of the plough.

Beyond the range of mountains to the east of Adelaide, named the Mount Lofty Range, lies a district of fine undulating country, well watered, and generally covered with the most luxuriant verdure. This district takes its name from a hill situate in it, of moderate elevation, called Mount Barker, and has been pronounced by many travellers to be one of the finest tracts of country in Australia. The hills are of slight elevation, are intersected by fine vallies ; and being partly wooded, partly clear, the country has been justly pronounced by many who have visited it, as well as the vallies already mentioned, to present more the appearance of an immense park than anything that one would naturally expect to find in the wilds of an uncultivated land. The Mount Barker district being more elevated than the plains around Adelaide, there exists a marked difference in the climate ; the heat never being so intense in summer, and slight frosts during the night being of frequent occurrence during winter. With slight variations, this description of country extends a great distance to the northward, portions of scrub and other inferior land intervening occasionally. To the eastward of Mount Barker, and on approaching Lake Alexandrina, the country falls towards the Lake, and spreads into extensive plains, in appearance and character similar to those at Adelaide.

It has been already stated, that the plain in which Adelaide is situate stretches to the north of the Town for

many miles. The country then begins again to assume the character of hill and vale, which is retained through the greatest part of the northern portion of the Colony. In this quarter are found many of its most fertile districts. These stretch along from the Mount Barker districts, and include the sources of the Rivers Onkaparinga and of the Torrens—the beautiful plain named Lyndoch Valley—the very extensive and well watered lands in the neighbourhood of the heights of Barossa—the sources of the River Gawler, and the rich vallies on the banks, and in the neighbourhood of the Hutt, Light, and Wakefield rivers. The country around Lyndoch Valley and the Barossa Ranges, about 60 miles north-east from the Capital, is of a very superior description; consisting of fine alluvial vallies and flats, covered with a rich coating of grass, and surrounded by picturesque hills, which likewise yield good grazing for stock. Some of the vales, or meadows, are really beautiful, and the scenery in this quarter is more diversified than in most other places—the surrounding hills assuming many shapes and attitudes which strike the eye, while the rich verdure and ever-green trees with which the slopes are covered, give a pleasant and cheering aspect to the scene. To the west and the north-west, the country consists of open grassy table-land; to the east it falls into plains towards the Murray.

It was computed by Col. Gawler, the late Governor, that the whole Peninsula between Gulf St. Vincent and the Murray consisted about one-third of good land available for agricultural purposes; one-third ranges of stringy bark forest, partly available as pasturage; and the remaining third of useless scrub and rocks, or desolate moors. This, of course, was but a very rough guess, but it is pro-

bably not far from the truth. Upwards of 600,000 acres had been surveyed up to the end of the year 1841, nearly one half of which is purchased, and the remaining portion is open for sale. It must be evident, therefore, that this district alone is capable of supporting an immense population. At present, however, the whole population amounts to only about 17,000 people.

With regard to those districts of the Colony which are yet imperfectly known, it will be necessary to speak but shortly. Some distance beyond Lake Alexandrina on the east, lies another Lake lately discovered, and named Albert, in the immediate neighbourhood of which a considerable track of good land exists. An intelligent surveyor of my acquaintance supposes that there is about 100,000 acres of "first-rate" land on the eastern shore of Lake Alexandrina, and in the neighbourhood of Lake Albert. Except this, however, a great proportion of the country lying beyond the Lakes is barren, sandy, and scrubby. I have seen persons who said they passed through a considerable quantity of good country in travelling from Port Philip, but most accounts agree that the greater part is almost valueless.*

The water in the upper part of Lake Alexandrina is fresh—the water of Lake Albert, though slightly brackish, is supposed to be fit for using at any time.

I have already remarked, that all to the north-east, north, and north-west, is as yet unexplored.

The Peninsula between St. Vincent's and Spencer's Gulf is represented as containing a portion of good land

* Accounts were published in the Colonial Journals of the 2d August last, announcing the discovery in the eastern bounds of the Province of a fine track of land, 90 miles in length—the whole presenting the appearance of an immense nobleman's park, and abundantly watered. It is just inside the limits of South Australia, and commands a good harbour.

for agriculture or pasture, but scantily supplied with water, and intermixed with a good deal of scrub.

The west coast of Spencer's Gulf was visited by Col. Gawler while he held the office of Governor, and he thus describes it :—

“The surface is naturally divided into three great portions—the mountainous track, the low undulating country, and the hill country.

“The general summit of the mountainous table-land is about 1300 feet above the level of the sea. The width from S.W. to N.E., appears to be from 20 to 25 miles. It is traversed by many short and narrow mountain ridges, from 300 to 700 feet in elevation above it. The slopes of these are generally grassy, and sprinkled with small casuarina (she oak) ; the water courses between them are frequently also grassy, and lined with pine and casuarina.

“The surface of the low country consists generally of very gentle elevations, with a few higher abrupt cones and rocks scattered about. The hill country consists of elevations, of from 600 to 1000 feet, which are extensively covered with good grass. The hill ridges contain a more than ordinary proportion of vallies, of considerable extent, all consisting of alluvial soil of excellent quality. In the hill ranges there is a considerable quantity of permanent surface water, and great facilities for constructing artificial tanks. The grassy hills and vallies are sprinkled with fine casuarina (she oak), but few valuable eucalypti (gum trees) occur—nevertheless, the scenery is very beautiful.”

Such is an outline of the general features of such parts of South Australia as have been explored.

With regard to rivers. There are but few streams of water in Australia that deserve that name. With the

exception of the Murray, there is no river at present known within the limits of South Australia which can be called navigable. In common with the rest of Australia, its rivers consist principally of rivulets, or chains of pools, which, when swollen with the winter rains, present the appearance of very respectable streams, but in summer dwindle down to insignificant streamlets, and many of them in dry seasons cease to run altogether. As this statement may, however, be taken as confirmation of a very erroneous impression, too prevalent in Britain, that Australia altogether, and South Australia in particular, is almost destitute of fresh water, I may here, once for all, allude to that matter, and state distinctly that such impression is unfounded and incorrect. No one will presume to say that South Australia is as abundantly supplied with surface water as Britain—its geographical position renders such a supposition absurd—but it is fairly watered for a country situate in the meridians of latitude 30° to 36° . Although, as has been mentioned, many streams almost cease to run during the heat of summer, there is always an abundant supply of water in the pools that remain—many, if not all, of which are supplied by numerous springs and undercurrents, as is shown by the fact, that the water in the pools never becomes stagnant or unfit for use. And in places where surface water is not found, wells may be sunk, when good water will almost invariably be got at depths varying from eighteen to sixty or eighty feet. An instance of this: There is no fresh water on the surface at Port Adelaide, which was a weighty reason with the founders of the Colony why the town was built away from the harbour; but a well has now been dug within 100 yards of high water mark, where, at a depth of only a

few feet, a supply of excellent water has been obtained, sufficient to supply the whole of the inhabitants, and the shipping which frequent the port.* This, in order to remove false impressions.

To return. The River Murray is one of very great consequence. Its source is in the west of New South Wales, whence it pursues a course of nearly 1200 miles, receiving numerous tributaries, until it falls into Lake Alexandrina, about forty miles to the eastward of Adelaide. The lake discharges its waters into the sea a little below Encounter Bay. Much speculation at one time existed regarding the navigation of the Murray, and whether a practicable outlet to the sea existed. That the river is navigable for a great distance into the interior is now settled beyond dispute; but it does not appear that its embouchure is likely to become a safe or useful channel, at least for sailing vessels. There are times when vessels of a small draught of water (six or seven feet) may take the entrance with safety, but a fresh breeze of wind from the southward rises such a swell on the bar at the mouth of the channel, as to render it hazardous, if not impossible, to effect an entrance. Steamers of a small draught of water might be employed with success during moderate weather, though, from what has been seen of it hitherto, it is to be feared that even they could not be depended on, except during fine weather. Once inside, however, the navigation of the lake and river is safe and easy; and should location on the banks of the Murray increase to such an extent as to render its navigation an object of importance, it will be an easy matter to have

* Many parts of the country, where it is barren, are but poorly supplied, but the available tracks are invariably found to contain a reasonable supply of water, either on the surface or by digging.

boats to convey the produce down the river to a dépôt, which might be formed at the bottom of the lake, whence it could be transported overland to Encounter Bay, distant only a few miles, where there is good anchorage and facilities for re-shipment for England or elsewhere.

The banks of the Murray are composed of a fine alluvial deposit, capable of producing all the grains and fruits which can be grown in the other parts of the Colony. Unfortunately, however, the land adjacent* is almost universally scrubby, and of little value, unless as pasture for a limited number of cattle. Agriculture must, therefore, become the principal pursuit of such as settle along the banks of the Murray; and, as an agricultural district, its rich soil, plentiful supply of fresh water for irrigation, if necessary, and the facility of water carriage, are advantages which render it probable that, in a few years, the banks of that magnificent river will be lined with a numerous and flourishing population. A small settlement has already been formed, and, as considerable quantities of land have been purchased on its banks, more Emigrants are likely to follow. And it is not at all beyond the bounds of probability, that, ere long, the

* In order to understand this, and the peculiar formation of the banks of this river, the following note, from the pen of Colonel Gawler, will be useful to the reader:—

“The valley of the Murray in its whole length—i. e. for about 200 miles—in South Australia, is a hollow, cut through a vast marine fossil formation, so that the hills and cliffs of either bank stand sometimes close to the margin of the river, sometimes at distances of one or two miles from it, at elevations of about 300 feet. The valley itself, in its whole course, is from three-fourths of a mile to two miles in breadth—the more general breadth $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles. The river flowing through it is from 100 to 250 yards in breadth.

“The long line of hills and cliffs which bound the Murray, maintain throughout a rough parallelism to each other, but the river scarcely ever preserves an equal course between them. It sweeps continually in magnificent reaches from side to side, encircling never-ceasing flats of from half a mile to four and five miles in length.

Settlers in the "far west" of New South Wales, will find it more advantageous to send their produce down the Murray, and receive back their supplies by the same channel, than to send to Sydney, a distance by land, in many cases, of 200 to 300 miles.

The other rivers or streams in South Australia at present known, are the Inman, Hindmarsh, Currency Creek, Torrens, Angas, and Bremer, falling into Encounter Bay and Lake Alexandrina; the Onkaparinga, Sturt, Torrens, Upper and Lower Para, Gawler, Hutt, Light, Wakefield, Rhine, and Broughton, falling into, or running towards, Gulf St. Vincent, with numerous other minor streams and tributaries.

The Onkaparinga River, though it cannot be called navigable, yet maintains for some miles a deep channel, and were the bar at its entrance removed, which at present prevents even a boat from entering, it might become navigable for small craft as far as the township of Noarlunga, situate on the great south road, a few miles from the sea-coast.

The harbour of Adelaide, which many confuse with the River Torrens, is not properly a river. It is a creek or indentation of the sea, assuming the appearance of a river, and running for upwards of twelve miles inland, having numerous branches. There are two entrances from the sea, a north and a south—the northern entrance is very shallow—the southern contains deep water for ten miles up. There is a sand bar, however, at the entrance, on which there is only about sixteen feet water at high water. In the rainy season, the Torrens empties some of its waters into the head of the creek, and hence, I presume, has arisen the misunderstanding regarding that river, and the many contradictory reports which have been made public regarding it.

The mountain ranges of South Australia consist of various formations. The Mount Barker Range consists of ironstone, others of limestone, granite, slate, &c. Specimens of lead, copper, and silver ore have been discovered in some of them. An attempt was made some time ago to work a vein of lead and silver ore in the Mount Lofty Range, but was not followed up—the Settlers being too busily employed as yet with the more necessary and certain pursuits of farming, to have their attention drawn to the hazardous one of mining.

Slate is found in great abundance, and of excellent quality, especially in the ranges at Willunga, some distance south of Adelaide, and has been worked not only for home use, but also for exportation to the neighbouring Colonies.

I have heard that a specimen of coal has been found, but nothing like a vein of that useful mineral has yet been discovered. Wood is consequently the universal fuel. Limestone and ironstone are plentiful, and easily procured. A German geologist has published a list of the minerals, &c., found in the Colony, among which are various kinds of precious stones, &c., but I do not think it of sufficient consequence to publish here.

I may now allude to the animal and vegetable productions of the Colony; but here the reader need not expect a learned dissertation on the history, genus, or species, of each particular animal, bird, tree, or bush, with a string of Latin names, which not one in fifty would understand. My intention here, and indeed throughout, is merely to give plain matter of fact information, for the benefit of the general reader.

First, then, as to timber. The tree found in greatest abundance is the gum tree in its several varieties. So far as my observations go, these take their general char-

acteristics principally from the soil in which they are produced. Thus, in alluvial flats, and along the banks of streams and rivers, is found what is termed the flooded gum—a majestic-looking tree, with a short thick stem, with immense branches spreading all around, and the smaller boughs drooping towards the ground. This tree is of little use except for ornament, and when cut is only used as fuel. Then, in drier parts of the country, but generally in a good soil, is found the red and white gum, trees something of the same kind as the flooded gum, but much taller and thinner in the stem, and free of branches for a considerable height. This tree is useful for fencing. In less fruitful soils, is found a stunted kind of gum tree, crooked and deformed, and of little use except as fuel. And in the mountain ranges grows the magnificent stringy bark, towering majestically, sometimes as high as 100 feet, without a single bend or branch, and surmounted by a tuft of boughs and foliage. This is, to the Settlers, the most valuable of all trees. It splits with ease, and so straight and regular is the grain, that it is made into thin, though rough boards, with the axe. It is likewise split into posts and rails for fencing, into thin slabs or palings for a like purpose, and into shingles, the almost universal substitute for slates, in the Australian Colonies. These shingles are from a foot to eighteen inches in length, four to five inches in breadth, and half an inch thick, and form a very good roof. The stringy bark is also sawn into battens, and other forms, for roofing, &c. I saw a fine tree of this wood made into a mainmast for a barque of between 400 and 500 tons, and though rather heavy, having been put in green, I was since informed that it gave the utmost satisfaction to the commander and owners of the vessel.

The gum tree is extensively used for ship-building purposes in New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land, and a few small vessels have likewise been built of it in South Australia.

The she oak is a tree which attains only a small size, and is found in abundance in many parts—principally in the undulating country. It is sometimes used in fencing. It is capable of receiving a very high polish, as is also the gum wood. I have seen ornaments and articles of furniture made of gum and she oak which looked remarkably well. They are both, however, very hard to work.

The pine is found in considerable quantities in some localities. It is easily worked, and useful. The trees, however, do not attain a large size, and they are principally used in fencing, roofing, &c. There is no timber in the country fit to be converted into deals or boards. All such is imported from England, the Baltic, or Singapore. Indian cedar, which can be purchased at a cheap rate at the latter place, is extensively used for flooring and finishing houses, and also in making furniture. Although cedar is found in abundance in New South Wales, it has not yet been discovered in South Australia.

In addition to the trees mentioned above, there are numerous varieties of shrubs, such as the cherry tree, the mimosa, acacia fragrans, gum wattle, and many others, most of which are very handsome, and some of them bear pretty blossoms.

Of flowers there are thousands of every description and hue, from the timid creeping "red-bell" upwards. I am not botanist enough, however, to describe them particularly, or to give even the names of many of them. They are mostly different from the flowers found in this country. It is worthy of note, that, though very beauti-

ful and variegated in colours, most of the Australian flowers are destitute of smell.

A species of flax is found growing in some districts, which I have been assured by a gentleman intimately acquainted with flax and the flax trade of Britain, might become an article of considerable importance in traffic, if attended to. Specimens of indigenous cotton and other plants have likewise been found, but as yet none of these have been attended to by the Settlers.

Of grasses, that named the kangaroo grass, from the animal of that name feeding on it, is the most general. It affords very nutritive food for sheep and cattle when growing, and is likewise cut in quantities for hay. I have rode through miles of country where this grass was growing as thick and strong as ryegrass in an English hay field. To show the absurdity of remarks which have appeared in print about the grass in South Australia growing in tufts, and at distances of sometimes a yard apart, I may here mention that it is no uncommon thing to see from one to two tons of this grass cut per acre for hay. The kangaroo grass is found in greatest abundance in the hills or undulating parts of the country. The Adelaide plains are almost destitute of it.

There is a kind of grass known by the Colonists as the "spear grass," which is a source of much inconvenience, and at times of considerable loss to the sheep farmer. The seeds of this grass are contained in a husk which is covered with prickles, or kind of burrs. The blades of the grass, too, when ripe, are something similar to the heads of barley, sticking to whatever they come in contact with. This grass and its seeds get into the wool of the sheep, and it is no easy matter to clear it from them. The London buyers have lately been complaining much of the

condition of some wools from Australia, (not South Australia particularly,) as being much injured by this grass. Some parts of South Australia are quite free of it, others are not. The only remedy where it exists is, I believe, to shear the sheep early ere the grass ripens.

There is scarce anything that deserves the name of fruit found in South Australia, or any part of New Holland, naturally. Edible roots are equally scarce. There are some kinds of small berries which have been dignified with the names of the "native apple," "cherry," &c., but most of them are no larger than peas.

With regard to the animal creation, South Australia, in common with the other settlements in New Holland, is happily free from that scourge, under which many countries labour—namely, the existence of beasts of prey. The only animal found in Australia which is in any way troublesome, is a kind of jackall, called the native or wild dog; an animal very similar both in appearance and habits to the English fox. Its attacks are always directed against the sheep, and a considerable degree of vigilance is necessary to preserve them from its wiles. But there is no animal in South Australia which will attack a man—in fact the wild dog is the only animal against which the Settlers have in any way to guard. There is a pack of hounds in the Colony, which the sporting gentlemen at times amuse themselves with, in hunting the wild dog.

The kangaroo is the largest quadruped found in the country. This singular animal has already been so often described, that it is unnecessary here to give a particular account of it. Kangaroos are found in great numbers in most of the districts of South Australia; although they gradually seem to retire into the interior as civilization advances. A kind of hound, something like the Scotch

stag-hound, is common in the country, for hunting them. The kangaroo is very shy, and it is seldom the hunter can get one within rifle range. Most of them are therefore taken with the hounds. They run, or rather leap at a great rate, and a good horse is necessary to follow the chase. The flesh of the animal is excellent eating, and at times it forms a considerable portion of the food of those in the back settlements.

The varieties of smaller animals are numerous—such as the bandicoot, wallaby, opossum, &c., all of which partake of the character and appearance of the kangaroo. The characteristics of that animal, indeed, seem to be maintained throughout all the inferior creation—even rats and mice follow the rule which nature seems to have established; and hence the name of kangaroo rats, &c. The skins of the wallaby and opossum are covered with a coarse fur, which renders them of some value, and the animals are in consequence sought after by the natives, who having prepared the skins, sew them together with the sinews, and thus form a kind of cloak or rug—the only dress which many of the aborigines wear. These rugs are also bought by the Settlers, who find them very useful as a substitute for blankets when travelling in the “Bush,” and indeed among many of those living in the country they supply the place of blankets altogether.

The kangaroo lives principally in the woods, and feeds on grass; the wallaby burrows in the ground; and the opossum (a kind of squirrel,) takes up its abode in the hollow parts of old trees, whence it issues at night to feed on the young twigs. Rabbits, though not natural to the country, have been introduced by the Settlers, and are now found in considerable numbers, especially on an island at Encounter Bay.

Lizards of various kinds are numerous, and of all sizes, from two inches up to two feet in length.

Snakes are by no means numerous, although frequently met with, especially in damp places. They are of various kinds, and the bite of some is dangerous. I have known animals die from the effects of the bite of a snake ; but never heard of a human being being bitten. The largest snake I saw in the Colony was about eight feet long, but the general size is from two to five feet. A small black snake is considered the most dangerous.

There are other reptiles of different kinds. The bite of the centipede, which is plentiful, is generally supposed, but without cause, to be fatal. Of insects there is an endless variety, but there are scarcely any that are troublesome. Indeed mosquitos are almost the only insect of annoyance, and except in marshy places, and close to the banks of streams, they are not numerous. They are of moderate size, and in some persons their bite is attended with considerable irritation and inflammation. On others it has no effect.

The varieties of birds it is impossible here to enumerate. The emu or Australian ostrich is the largest. This bird, though possessed of a kind of wings, has not the power of flying, but uses them to assist it in running. It thus impels itself along at a rate equal to that of the fleetest greyhound. There are swans in abundance about the Murray and Lake Alexandrina. Wild geese and turkeys are also plentiful ; and ducks or teal, with other descriptions of water fowl, are found in immense numbers about Port Adelaide and the numerous creeks which surround it, and in the neighbourhood of the various streams and lagoons throughout the country. The *ornithicus paradoxus* which seems half duck half mole, is found on the Murray.

Cockatoos, black and white, are in thousands. Parrots and parroquets in legions, and of every variety, many of them of the most beautiful and variegated plumage. A kind of pigeon, with beautifully bronzed wings, whence it takes its name, is met with ; hawks and eagles are occasionally seen, though by no means numerous. Owls of various kinds exist—the common crow is found in some localities, though not in numbers ; and an immense variety of smaller birds, by far “too numerous to mention,” some of them similar to the feathered tribes of this country, others not. Most of the birds of Australia, like the flowers, are only to be looked at ; few of them sing, and those possessed of the richest plumage emit no sound but a disagreeable scream.

The birds sought after as food are the emu, turkey, duck or teal, and quail—the last mentioned is very plentiful at certain seasons of the year. Parrots and cockatoos are eatable, but seldom used as food. The skins of the swans are valuable for the down.

The sea and its branches are prolific in fish. Many varieties exist which are unknown in this country, and indeed I have seen some species caught which would puzzle even a naturalist to find a name for. Of the more common descriptions, the snapper, cod, salmon,* barracouta, and a variety of small fish, are excellent eating. These are caught in the harbour and gulfs, and along the coast in great numbers. The fresh water rivers are but poorly supplied with fish, and the pleasant amusement of angling is almost unknown.

Oysters and other shell-fish are procured in Gulf St. Vincent, and the epicures of Adelaide are seldom without a supply.

* In Colonial parlance so called, from a supposed resemblance to that fish.

CHAP. III.

CLIMATE.

“Exquisite is the coolness of the mornings and evenings—cheering the brilliancy of the mid-day sun—brilliant the revelations of the starry host—‘the poetry of the heavens at night!’ There is no moonlight more silvery, soft, and delicious, than the moonlight of Madrid.”

THE salubrity of the climate of Australia is all but universally admitted by those who have dwelt in, or visited that country. In this respect, it is indeed blessed beyond most places on the earth. Other countries there are where the climate is equally agreeable and healthy, but few, if any, where it is more so.

A knowledge of the geographical position of South Australia carries with it the fact that the climate must be warm. The peculiar dryness of the atmosphere, however, and the absence of swamps or fens, which abound in many hot countries, so temper the heat, that it produces little or none of that enervating effect on the constitution which is generally brought on by a residence in the East or West Indies. Another advantage Australia possesses is, that the hot is also the dry season. In many countries the hottest part of the year is accompanied with torrents of rain, which load the atmosphere with moisture—whence arises fogs and malaria, and these again produce fevers, agues, &c. The reverse of this is the case in South Australia; and the consequent dryness of the air robs the heat of any unhealthy tendency—it being a well known fact, that a much greater degree of heat or cold can be borne in an arid than in a moist situation, without inconvenience.

South Australia being to the southward of the Equator, has the seasons the reverse of what they are in Britain. Thus Christmas, which in England is generally ushered in

with frost and snow, and is always associated with a snug room and a blazing fire, is mid-summer in Australia; while the month of July is the depth of the Australian winter. "Winter," indeed, is scarcely an appropriate term—the months of June, July, and August, being very different from the cold, sleety, or frosty months of November, December, and January—the winter months of Britain. The Australian winter may be, with better propriety, called the "rainy season"—and this is the term generally used by the Colonists. Frost and snow, the characteristics of winter, are almost unknown, except in the hill districts, where, during July and August, hoar frosts, and a slight sprinkling of ice in the mornings are not unfrequent.

The rainy season commences towards the end of May, or early in June. The weather gradually becomes cooler from March; but it is not till May or June that the rains begin to come down in earnest. The temperature during the months of June, July, and August, generally ranges from 45° to 65°. The weather resembles May in England, there being a few fine genial days, followed by two or three of almost continued rain. In August the rains are at the heaviest, and in September they begin slightly to abate. This and the succeeding month form the pleasantest season of the year. The temperature is delightful—one has no occasion for a great-coat out of doors, or a fire in-doors—day after day the sun rises in unclouded splendour, and sets in streams of golden light—nature has put on her gayest attire—the corn plats are waving with their crops of wheat—the fields are covered with a mantle of the richest green, interspersed with gay flowers—and everything seems bursting into new life under the genial rays of the sun, which has begun to retrace its course towards the tropic of Capricorn. A few days of this weather,

and a day or two of rain succeeds—which only serve to give an additional impetus to vegetation—when the sun again drives away the clouds, and shines forth with renewed brilliancy. It is actually a luxury to breath the morning and evening air at this season of the year. Often have I strolled about from sunrise till breakfast time, revelling in the luxury attendant on a ride or walk in the fields ; and at such a time a person cannot help comparing the gloomy, cold, and dismal appearance of an English morning in February or March with the beauties of an Australian spring, or even winter morning.

The month of November is a continuance of such weather, but the warmth gradually increasing, and the rains becoming less plentiful. December brings with it all the heat of summer. In most seasons there are occasional showers during this month, but in a dry season it may pass without rain. The temperature towards the end of the month reaches its maximum. The heat of summer is tempered by almost constant cool breezes, which blow with considerable regularity as land and sea breezes. In moderate and regular weather, the wind commonly goes right round the compass daily. In the morning it blows a gentle breeze from the east or the north-east, veering as the day advances to north and north-west. In the forenoon the sea breeze sets in from the west, which as the sun declines shifts to south-west, south, and in the evening to south-east. In winter the winds prevail from north-west and west, with occasional gales from the south-west and southward.

During the summer months, South Australia, in common with the other parts of the island, is subject to sirrccos, or hot winds, regarding which there has been many opinions among scientific gentlemen. These winds blow

from the north or north-east, sometimes lasting for one, and seldom for more than two days. During this time, the wind blows in a continued current of heated air, sometimes so hot as to feel disagreeable to the face, and causing a blistering of the skin in those who are not accustomed to face it. The annoyance is increased, too, by clouds of dust, which invariably visit the town of Adelaide when a high wind occurs, unaccompanied by rain. The dust thus raised is so fine, that it penetrates through every crevice, so that there is scarcely a *dust proof* house in the Colony. But this annoyance is of course confined to the denizens of the city. Even the scorching heat of the sun and wind is not felt so much in the country—the reflection of the sun from the streets and houses tending materially to increase the heat in town.

These siroccos, after blowing for a short time, generally bring up masses of clouds from the north, and are succeeded by rain, and frequently a thunder storm, by which the atmosphere is soon cooled. During the continuance of a hot wind, the thermometer very often rises as high as from 100° to 110° in the shade. This may appear to be quite high enough to be comfortable, and indeed it is so; but these are the only really disagreeable days of the Australian summer, and do not, on the average, amount to more than ten or twelve days of the year.

Yet these winds, though exceedingly unpleasant, produce no bad effects beyond a little lassitude, unless on extreme exposure, or where incautious drinking of cold water is indulged in. As a proof of this, I may mention, that I was out on horseback, along with a friend, during one of the most intense siroccos I ever felt, in the end of 1841. The country through which we were travelling was on fire, the smoke and heat from which tended to augment that of the wind; and to add still farther to

our discomfort, one of our horses was lost in a river when about fifteen miles from any station, and after much labour and fatigue, we were obliged to make the best of our way back to where we started from, with only the remaining horse between us. Yet although we were out from sunrise till sunset—riding and walking under a burning sun—sometimes through blazing forests, and with a most grievous sirpcco blowing—without food, and almost without water—our way being through a barren scrub—neither of us felt anything more than a little temporary fatigue, which was removed by a cold bath and a sound sleep, and we were both on horseback from day-dawn till sunset every day for a week afterwards.

The best method of illustrating the nature of the climate throughout the year, will be to give a summary of the results of meteorological observations made by scientific gentlemen in the Colony. With this view I have compiled the following table, which shows the highest, lowest, and average range of the thermometer during each month, with the quantity of rain that fell therein. It is for the year commencing 1st November, 1840, and ending 31st October, 1841:—

Mths.	At Mid-day.		At Nine Evening.		Average at mid-day.	Days on which rain fell	Quantity of Rain.
	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.			
1840.	deg.	deg.	deg.	deg.	deg.		inches.
Nov.	99	65	82	57	79	4	0·19
Dec.	102	68	89	64	84	6	3·82
1841.							
Jan.	96	72	87	64	82	2	·45
Feb.	100	65	87	55	83	3	·35
Mar.	99	64	83	62	80	4	·81
April	80	63	73	50	70	12	3·57
May	81	60	68	52	77	8	1·71
June	73	54	64	50	63	7	2·32
July	66	52	62	47	62	10	·857
Aug.	77	51	67	43	60	15	2·813
Sept.	79	52	69	48	66	10	0·045
Oct.	91	59	85	56	69	6	·94

The hottest day of the above year was the 17th Dec., 1840, when the thermometer reached 102° at mid-day. This was during a hot wind, which lasted throughout the 16th and 17th, and was succeeded by a fresh breeze from the south-west, accompanied by three days' heavy rain. On the 24th another hot wind occurred, which was followed on Christmas day by a cool breeze and fine weather.

The coldest day of the year, ending 31st Oct., 1841, was the 5th of August, when the thermometer stood, at nine in the morning, at 45° ; at mid-day at 51° ; and at nine in the evening at 43° . For *one hundred and five days* the thermometer ranged at noon from 70° to 80° ; and for *one hundred and nineteen days* it ranged from 60° to 70° ; thus showing that, for two-thirds of the year, the mid-day heat in-doors varies from 60° to 80° , being similar to fine summer weather in Britain.

The subjoined table shows, in a clear view, the quantity of rain that fell during the three years I was in the Colony, with the number of days on which it rained each year:—

Months.	1839.		1840.		1841.	
	days	Rain.	days	Rain.	days	Rain.
January.....	7	0·453	3	0·335	2	0·45
February.....	3	0·446	5	2·01	3	0·35
March.....	6	0·85	7	0·437	4	0·81
April.....	5	0·379	10	1·202	12	3·57
May.....	5	0·245	7	1·487	8	1·71
June.....	10	3·497	11	3·247	7	2·32
July.....	12	2·128	8	1·9	10	0·857
August.....	16	4·767	16	2·829	15	2·813
September.....	10	0·85	16	4·64	10	2·045
October.....	9	2·57	6	1·9	6	0·94
November.....	14	3·31	4	0·19	—	—
December.....	5	0·345	6	3·82	—	—
Totals.....	102	19·840	93	23·997	77	15·865

Having spoken thus much regarding the climate generally, it may now be proper to inquire how the general

health of the Colonists stands, and whether there are any diseases peculiar to the country. In this respect I say, without hesitation or fear of contradiction, that there is no disease of any consequence peculiar to South Australia—that many diseases common in Britain and other countries are almost unknown there—and that diseases incident to, or contracted in, moist climates, may be, if not cured, at least alleviated, by a residence in South Australia. I am fortunately in a position to produce the testimony of more than one medical gentleman in confirmation of this statement of my own.

In the early stages of the Colony, diarrhoea, dysentery, and ophthalmia prevailed to a considerable extent among the emigrants. The two former diseases were caused partly by a change of climate, but more particularly by the change of diet, on coming from on board ship—in some instances by a too free indulgence in ardent spirits, and frequently by drinking cold water when the body was in a state of perspiration. A number of children and some grown-up people fell victims to these diseases, but they have now almost entirely disappeared. Ophthalmia was caused by the want of proper habitations, the constant glare of the sun, and a carelessness in shading the eyes while exposed to the solar rays ; but a case of this disease is now of very rare occurrence.

Fever at one time existed in the Colony, but, with the exception of a few isolated cases, it too, is now unknown.

The first evidence which I adduce to bear out these remarks is that of a medical man residing in the Colony, whither he went in search of health. He reached the Colony in the end of the summer of 1839–40, when South Australia was but in its infancy, and in May 1842, he writes :—

"I soon found that I had come to the Colony too soon, and the privations I suffered for the first year were such, that had it not been for the delightful climate, I could not have survived them. During the months of April, May, and June, the weather appeared to me more serene and beautiful than anything I had ever seen. I had looked forward with dread to the winter months, which I expected to find very wet and cold. How agreeably disappointed then did I feel at seeing the first months of winter pass so pleasantly. An occasional shower, sufficient to support vegetation, was the only interruption to their calm serenity. During the night there was generally a deposit of dew or hoar frost, and on one or two occasions, a thin film of ice had formed upon the water.

"July brings along with it heavy showers, and towards the latter part of it, the weather for days together is stormy, cold, and wet.

"The commencement of August is generally cold and wet, the temperature averages 61 deg. As the month advances the weather improves; the showers, though heavy, are of short duration; and in the intervals the sun shines forth as in our finest April weather at home.

"During September and the greatest part of October the showers, though heavy, become less frequent, and we have spring in all its beauty.

"Spring at home I had learned to associate with easterly winds, colds, coughs, and sore throats, but in Australia we have it as sung by the poet of the Seasons—'Spring, with its ethereal mildness,' six months of the year, almost without interruption.

"Notwithstanding the heavy rains of July and August, there are probably not six days of winter or spring, whichever we term it, between the middle of April and the

middle of October, in which an invalid could not walk or ride out with pleasure. The moisture is so quickly absorbed by the soil that, in the country, it is generally dry underfoot in the interval of the showers.

He then speaks more particularly of diseases :—

“ It is a very common mistake in this part of the world to give the name of dysentery to common diarrhoea—diseases totally different. Diarrhoea is a relaxed state of the bowels, an affection which attacks most people landing after a long sea voyage, and is owing generally to a change of diet.

“ Before leaving Britain, I remember to have felt considerable alarm at some statements made there, regarding the great prevalence of dysentery in South Australia, having witnessed the fearful effects of that disease in the East Indies, but felt greatly relieved when I found the term applied to diarrhoea.

“ The treatment of diarrhoea is of a very simple kind ; in the majority of cases, the disease cures itself, if care be taken to avoid all irritating or indigestible matters.

“ Dysentery is regarded as a disease of warm climates, but it is found to prevail more in those places where liver complaint is a frequent disease.

“ That the climate of South Australia is obnoxious to dysentery there is no reason to believe ; and liver complaint seems to be a more rare disease than even in Britain. I have been much surprised at the very small number of cases that occur of functional derangement of the liver in this country.

“ During the winter of 1840 dysentery prevailed in the Colony, as also fever, by which many were cut off. The cause of the disease lay in the discomfort to which numbers were subjected upon landing, the crowding together

of so many in the filthy huts, which served as dwellings at that time, the bad quality of the bread, and the want of acid and acescent food. Since vegetables have been raised in abundance, and good flour has been substituted for the trash that went under that name two or three years since, *disease of any kind has been very rare.* Indeed, South Australia may challenge any part of the world in point of salubrity."

Another medical man who has resided some years in the Colony enumerates the diseases which occur most frequently as being—diarrhoea, bilious fever, brain fever, typhus fever—these sometimes partaking of the character of each other; rheumatism, ophthalmia, small wounds taking a scorbutic character, difficult to heal, and chronic diseases from miscellaneous causes. The fever cases are the most important, but these are comparatively of rare occurrence, and, when they do occur, have generally been traced to mental irritation and disappointment.

The only other testimony which I shall add, is that of the Rev. Mr. Stow—the able and zealous pastor of the Independent body in Adelaide—who, as such, has constant opportunities of ascertaining the state of health, in his own congregation at least, which is a large one. Mr. Stow, under date the 27th April, 1842, says:—"The greater part of the year is delightful—the winter is pleasant—and the autumn and spring are, for mild and balmy sweetness, the perfection of climate. Two or three years back, we had fears as to its effect on health, as there was considerable mortality. But our fears are quite gone. For two years past the statistics have been most satisfactory. There has been but little sickness and few deaths. *As a minister of twenty years standing, I can say that I have never had in my congregation, in proportion to*

numbers, so little sickness as since I have been here. We have no epidemics. Dysentery (diarrhoea) sometimes occurs, but in isolated, and for the most part, well accounted for cases. I need scarcely say that to consumptive persons our climate promises much, and that in many instances, it has checked the malady and saved the sufferer."

It is almost superfluous to add anything to these statements. I may therefore merely remark, regarding the concluding sentence of the above extract, that though I do not suppose any one labouring under a confirmed case of genuine pulmonary consumption would be cured by a residence in South Australia, yet I have little doubt life would be prolonged; and such as may be pre-disposed to consumption or asthma, or where the disease is not deeply rooted in the system, might, by careful attention to clothing, regimen, &c., with great confidence look on the climate of the colony as the means of preventing the disease or of arresting its progress. I have seen several instances of people labouring under severe asthma, having been completely cured by a residence in the Colony. Colds, the origin of so much disease and mortality in Britain, are almost unknown in Australia; notwithstanding the carelessness of many persons, as to clothing, exposure to night air, &c. I have, myself, repeatedly slept on the ground, in the open air, sometimes even wet, and never had a cold during the three years I was in South Australia.

CHAP. IV.

THE NATIVE INHABITANTS.

“ The wandering savage,
Roaming like wolf through woods in search of food,
Wherewith t' support his sun-scorched swarthy frame.”

THE aborigines of New Holland have generally, and I believe justly, been ranked as the lowest step in the scale of humanity. They are not only ignorant of anything relating to art or science, but have even no idea of any means of procuring food beyond what Nature supplies. The Red Indian of America has his bow and arrow, or his rifle, to kill game—the South Sea Islander cultivates his yams and bread fruit—the New Zealander plants his maize and potatoes, and rears his pigs—but the New Hollander's garden consists of the trackless forests, where only a few scanty roots are to be obtained—and he goes forth to his hunting armed simply with a slender sharp-pointed wand, or a heavy club, and has consequently to depend more on subtlety by taking his prey unawares, than on any art of his own. Still, though so low in the scale of civilization, the native often shows an acuteness and sagacity not to be expected in one apparently so ignorant.

The native population of Australia is by no means numerous. Within the settled districts of South Australia, the whole number of aborigines does not exceed 700. They are divided into tribes, each tribe having its own district of country or hunting ground. Every tribe has also a chief, who seems to be generally selected for personal courage or physical strength, and who maintains his position by force of arms if necessary.

The reasons to which may be ascribed so limited a population are these:—Continual wars between the various tribes, and quarrels among individuals; polygamy; illicit intercourse between the males and females; and infanticide. In a country, too, which, in its natural state, produces little for the support of human life, and where its inhabitants have no knowledge of cultivating the soil, they must necessarily be scattered over a great extent of country.

The physical appearance of the aborigines of South Australia is not generally disagreeable. The men are mostly well-formed and athletic, and the different parts of the body fairly proportioned. They vary in height from five to six feet—the average will be nearly the same as in Europeans. The women are much shorter, and are not nearly so well formed as the men. Their features are mostly disagreeable—their bodies slender—their legs and arms attenuated and shapeless. In the men, the legs and arms are, on the contrary, well shaped. The head is large, and thickly covered with coarse black hair—not woolly like the negroes. The forehead is rather prominent, eyes sunk, nose flat and very broad, mouth wide, lips somewhat thickened, which, when separated, disclose a set of beautifully regular white teeth. The chest is full and broad, and the abdomen, especially in children, large. The skin is not jet black, but of a very dark copper colour. The males are active, and walk erect, and with a majestic mein; the women appear indolent, and come crawling along in the rear. The females indeed appear more like slaves than equals—on them devolves all the drudgery—they have to carry the children, food, &c., while the husband walks in front, with no other incumbrance than his implements of war or hunting.

In their natural state they seldom—the males and children especially—wear any dress. Where opossums are numerous, they make cloaks of the skins of that animal, which are sometimes worn; along the sea coast, where their food consists principally of fish, they make coverings with grass, rushes, or sea-weed. In Adelaide and neighbourhood, most of the men and women are supplied with some kind of covering, either by Government or by private Settlers. The men sometimes have a blanket or rug, sometimes part of European clothing. One may be seen wearing a shirt, another a pair of trousers, some may even be better clad. One day I saw a young man walking along the streets, strutting most pompously with a single white cotton stocking on one foot. Another time I remember observing a man whose only article of dress consisted of an old hat.

In the article of food, scarcely anything comes amiss to them. At one season of the year, herbs and roots form a great proportion of their sustenance; at another, eggs, and young birds or animals, fish, lizards, iguanos, and even snakes; in summer, opossums and the gum of the wattle; and at other times various small indigenous fruits, &c. Vegetables are eaten by all indiscriminately. Females and young men are not permitted to eat animals, or some parts of them; fish, and the female kangaroo, are not eaten by young unmarried men; and girls, and women until the birth of their second child, are forbidden to eat opossums and emus.

In hunting, various modes are adopted of obtaining prey. The kangaroo, emu, &c., are either killed with the spear or caught in a net; such animals as burrow in the ground are dug out or caught in nets; opossums, which keep in the trees, are either watched at night, when

they come out to feed, or they are caught in the holes of the trees, where they hide during the day. Sometimes the tree is set on fire, or a fire lighted at its root, until the animals are obliged to leave their holes, and they then fall under the unerring aim of the black hunter, who, with eagle eyes, watches at the foot of the tree.

It may here be as well to describe the various implements used both for war and hunting. The chief instrument is a large spear called by them the *winda*. It consists of a straight wand of some hard wood, being from eight to twelve feet long, and pointed at one end. When used for hunting, it is plain at the point; when in battle, it is sometimes barbed with small pieces of flint or glass, stuck on with gum; for fishing, there are barbs cut on it for several inches from the point. This spear is thrown with the hand, but not beyond a distance of ten to fifteen yards.

A smaller spear, about six feet long, called the *kaiya*, is composed of two parts—the lower of some hard wood, and pointed—the upper of a piece of reed, or a kind of shrub called the grass tree. In throwing this spear, a short propelling stick called the *midla* is used, by which it can be thrown with great precision a distance of from fifty to seventy yards.

The *wirri*—generally called by the Settlers *waddis*—is a kind of club about two feet long, having a knob at one end, and the other cut in a rude manner, something in the form of a screw, to ensure a firm hold in the hand. *Wirris* are of various sizes, and are thrown by the hand with great dexterity.

These are the chief implements used in hunting or fighting. They have a shield made of the thick bark of a tree, with which they protect themselves in battle.

Their nets, with which they catch fish, and sometimes animals, are made of the fibres of plants, which are prepared by chewing, and then rubbing them into a kind of string on the bare thigh. I have been astonished to witness the rapidity with which they will thus manufacture a line, either from the fibres of plants or from pieces of old rope.

In preparing their implements, the only tools they have—or at least that they had before the arrival of the white Settlers—are such as Nature supplies. Flint is used as a knife, or attached by gum to a handle, forms a kind of hatchet or tomahawk; and even shells are sometimes used as a substitute for flint where the latter is scarce. They make a needle of the leg-bone of the kangaroo or emu. It is used in the same manner as a shoemaker uses an awl. Their thread is made of the tendons of the kangaroo and other animals.

Their dwellings or encampments consist of slight temporary erections, forming nothing more than a kind of break-weather. In summer, these huts or *wurlies* are composed of a few branches laid upon each other, forming a semicircle. In winter they are more particular with their dwellings. They erect a kind of hut similar to the half of a bee-hive, formed of branches, having the interstices filled up with bark, grass, and mud. The erections are rude and simple, easily built and as easily destroyed. A permanent residence is unknown among them—their sojourn in any place seldom extending to more than a month or six weeks.

They thus wander about the country, sometimes in tribes, sometimes in families. At times the tribe will be scattered all over the country, but they frequently come together and encamp in one place. In the evenings they

form in groups and converse together, and sometimes perform the *Corroborie*. In the morning the young and vigorous start out in various directions in search of supplies—the male after animal, the female after vegetable, food.

Occasionally different tribes assemble together, sometimes for conviviality, sometimes for war. If for the former, and any are strangers to each other, they undergo a formal introduction their lineage and country being briefly described by the older men. They then meet together in the evening and have a *Corroborie*. If assembled for the purpose of war, certain ceremonies, which it is impossible to describe, are gone through in the evening, both tribes appearing in the war paint, and with their arms. The two tribes meet each other, and seem, from their gestures and language, to speak contemptuously of one another, until they raise themselves to a terrible pitch of excitement, uttering the most horrid yells, and throwing their bodies into various postures, quivering their spears, &c. They then part for the night—each tribe performs the war dance—and at day-light next morning the battle takes place. Sometimes these engagements arise out of quarrels regarding women—sometimes out of old feuds—and frequently, it is said by those well acquainted with their customs, for no other purpose than to show the activity of the young men.

In battle, every one appears in a state of nudity. The breasts, belly, legs, and face, are painted with belts of white paint, some of the lines crossing the chest, others running down the legs as far as the knee.

There are many peculiarities about their customs and habits with which Europeans are not yet acquainted. The *Corroborie*, in particular, has been by some said to be a

religious ceremony, and by others imputed to different things; but I believe it is now pretty well ascertained that it is merely an amusement. Any description of this ceremony would give but a very faint idea of what it really is.

Of their other ceremonies but little is yet known. The males pass through three different stages, and each of these is marked by a corresponding ceremony.

The first stage, from childhood to boyhood, takes place about the age of ten years. It is called *wilya kundarti*, and consists in the body being covered with blood, drawn from the arm of an adult. This seems to be introductory to the second step, which is circumcision, and which is performed when the person has reached his 13th or 14th year. When this operation is performed, the head is besmeared with grease and ochre, and a band tied round it, in which is fixed a tuft of feathers, and this is worn until the person has recovered from the effects of the operation. These ceremonies serve as a kind of initiation into the privileges of manhood—the person is now permitted to use the *wirri* and the *kadno marngutta* (a kind of toy), and to wear the *yudna*, or public covering.

The third ceremony is called *wilgarra*, and consists in tatooing the breast, back, and shoulders. The person is now supposed to have arrived at manhood, is a warrior, and allowed the use of all their weapons and toys, and permitted to marry. He also receives a girdle of human hair, which he wears round his waist, and which marks him as a man. Among some tribes circumcision is not practised, and a rite is substituted for it, which consists in besmearing the whole body with grease and red ochre.

Polygamy is permitted among them, though it is but seldom a man has more than one wife. I have seen some however, who had two, and some three wives. I am not

aware that there is any ceremony of marriage, although this, I believe, is applicable only to some tribes. In war, it is customary for the young men of the victorious side to possess themselves of the young women of the opposing party, and to make wives of them. Should any resistance be offered, the conqueror is very unceremonious, and does not hesitate to give his intended a knock, anything but gentle, with his *wirri*. He then carries her off as a trophy of victory, and the woman lives peaceably with him afterwards.

Religion does not seem to exist among them in any form whatever. They have no conception of a Diety, or any "Great first cause." Still there is some kind of dread entertained respecting spirits, or bad men, which go abroad at night. Death, in particular, is supposed to be a man of a short, thick, and ugly appearance, and having a disagreeable smell. They have no idea of a creation—they seem to think that some things originated of themselves, and that these had the power of making others, or of transforming themselves into others. It is said that they have an indistinct idea of a future state, and imagine that after death they shall be transformed into little birds, and other shapes. I have also been told, that when they saw the white people arrive, they imagined that they were the spirits of their forefathers come back to see the country. Many ceremonies are used in interring a dead body, and the bearers of it, in going to the grave, frequently stop, make a circle round, and then walk on again. What these relate to, is, I believe, unknown. In some parts of the country, the dead bodies are deposited in the trees—a place being formed in a cleft, wherein the body is laid, and it is then covered over with leaves and green branches. In other places, the body is placed on a kind of stage,

formed of boughs, and after remaining in that position for a certain time, it is consumed, along with the stage, by fire. Other tribes inter the dead bodies in the ground.

They think to counteract the influence of the bad men who possess supernatural powers, by charms and other magic evolutions, for which purpose there are among them professed sorcerers, called *warra-warra*. These persons are also supposed to possess the power of making rain, thunder, &c., of causing or curing sickness, of enchanting rivers so as to render the water poisonous, and have otherwise great influence among the blacks.

Disease they attribute to vermin or sorcery, and the cure is mostly attempted by the latter. With them the medical maxim *similia similibus curantur* is entertained, and they accordingly endeavour to counteract the effects of magic by applying the same as a cure. Bleeding is sometimes resorted to, and at other times the pained parts are submitted to friction, and bathed with cold water.

Their ideas regarding the heavenly bodies are singular, and peculiar to themselves. They believe that the sun, moon, and stars, were at one time inhabitants of this world, and that they have accidentally changed their residence, although they now live in the same state of society as before. The moon they suppose to be a male, and the sun his wife. Some of the stars are dogs belonging to the moon. The Pleiades are girls—Orion, boys; the meteoric lights are supposed to be orphans. The southern lights, they imagine, portend disease; and an eclipse causes death and destruction.

The language of the aborigines is very diversified throughout the whole of Australia. Almost every tribe has a dialect peculiar to itself. Tribes living within fifty

miles of each other, often cannot hold intercourse together. A few specimens of the dialect spoken in the neighbourhood of Adelaide may not be uninteresting here.

PRONOUNS—1ST PERSONAL.

SINGULAR.	DUAL.	PLURAL.
NOM. & ACC.— <i>Ngau</i> , I and me	<i>Ngadli</i> , we two	<i>Ngadlu</i> , we

2D PERSON.

N. & ACC.— <i>Ninna</i> , thou, thee	<i>Niwa</i> , you two	<i>Na</i> , you
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3D PERSON.

N. & ACC.— <i>Pa</i> , he, she, it	<i>Parla</i> , they two	<i>Parna</i> , they
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The noun substantives form the chief basis, there being derived from them several other parts of speech, as—

NOUN SUBST.	ADJECTIVE.	VERB.
<i>Mado</i> , fog, darkness	<i>Madlo madlo</i> , dark, foggy	<i>Madlo madlonondi</i> , to become dark
<i>Kuinya</i> , death	<i>Kuinywana</i> , mortiferous,	<i>Kuinyzawendi</i> , to die

The radical part of the verb occurs generally as a verbal noun, which, by affixing certain particles, is made into a verb, and forms thus the tenses, moods, and modifications.

Murka, lamentation	Murkáingwa, lament you two
Murkandi, lamenting	Murkáinga, lament you
Murki, lamented	Murkanintyérla, that lament
Múrketti, have lamented	Múrkama, had lamented
Murkata, shall lament	Murkattoŭi, lest lament
Murkanánna, having had lamented	Murkátti, do not lament
Murká, lament thou	Murkatítja, to lament

Instead of prefixes they have postfixa and postpositions, by which these relations are expressed, as—

Nindaitja, to thee (going)	Kurrungga, in the pot
Ngattaitja, to me, towards, against	Tandungga, in the bag
Mutyertilla, in the coat	Werlianna, to the house (going)
Pankarrilla, in, upon the territory	Yertanna, to the country

The numerals consist only of—

Kumandi, one	Marnkutye, a few; some
Purlaitja, two	Tauata, many

The multiple is expressed by the termination—lukko, as—

Kumarlukko, once	; Purlarlukko, twice, &c.
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It will be seen from the foregoing remarks that the Australian natives are sunk into a dreadful state of ignorance. To endeavour to enlighten them and bring them into a state of civilization, was a matter to which the attention of the founders of South Australia was early directed. For this purpose, as well as to watch that the whites should make no aggressions on them, a person was appointed and paid by government to attend solely to the aborigines. In endeavouring, however, to make them forsake the customs or traditions of their forefathers, many difficulties stand in the way. Their indolent habits are deeply rooted. As they have been accustomed hitherto to obtain a living without much bodily exertion, they do not relish the plan of digging in the ground to raise food. Many of them will carry wood or water, or perform other little jobs for the settlers, for a piece of bread or a copper coin; but they act as their own masters, are very independent, and leave off whenever they feel inclined. One or two have of late been induced to remain about the premises of the settlers, and have been found of considerable use; but they cannot be trusted to remain. I had a very active boy with me for some time, who, when he choose, could work well, but took lazy fits at times. I had him dressed in cast-off clothes, and he used to strut about and call himself by my name; but when his companions were going out on a hunting expedition, he would take himself off, sometimes telling me he was going, at other times taking French leave. In two or three days he would make his appearance again in a state of nudity. Thus, however well they may be treated and fed, they always retain a longing after their uncontrolled life in the Bush; and some of the natives of New South Wales, who have for years lived among

the whites and become civilized, have at last taken themselves to the woods and become wilder than ever.

It seems, therefore, to be almost useless to endeavour to reclaim the grown-up part of the black population. The only mode which is likely to be successful, is to attend to the children, and separate them as much as possible from the adults, and thus prevent them from learning their habits. This seems to present the only means of reclaiming them from their savage state. The following extract from the report of the protector of the aborigines, made up at the close of the year 1842, will show what progress has been made in this respect :—

“ The first step taken towards their improvement was, to acquire a knowledge of their language, so as to gain an insight into their character, habits, laws, and prejudices. The next step was to induce them, by example and persuasion, to adopt regular employment, and to erect fixed and more substantial habitations, in the neighbourhood of which land for cultivation was apportioned; and the success has been as follows :—They have assisted in erecting five cottages, and a sixth has been erected with but very little aid from Europeans. In 1839 and 1840 they had one acre of ground under cultivation, and at the present time they have a plot of ground (three acres) cultivated by themselves, upon which potatoes, carrots, maize, and melons are now growing.

“ As the language became more generally known, and facilities afforded to conversation, they were spoken to from time to time upon moral and religious subjects. On the 23d of December, 1839, a school for the children was commenced, and since that period they have been assembled as regularly as practicable. In 1840, they were assembled two hundred and eighty-six days, and out of forty-one children that were in Adelaide, the average school attendance was eleven daily. In 1841, from January 1st to June 30th, the average attendance was nineteen daily. At the end of June 1841 there were fourteen that knew the alphabet, thirteen that could read monosyllables, ten polysyllables, and write upon the slate or paper; six knew the rule of addition, and two that of multiplication. Since the 2d of March, the girls have received sewing lessons from a number of ladies, chiefly Wesleyans, who felt interested in the im-

provement of these people. The progress made under the tuition of these zealous ladies has been satisfactory and encouraging. Eight of the children are able to repeat the commandments, and narrate the history of the creation, fall of our first parents, Cain's fratricide, the deluge, portions of early Jewish history, the advent of our Lord, several of his miracles, the doctrine of resurrection and final judgment.

"The adults are much more inaccessible for religious instruction than the children; they are naturally proud and wise in their own estimation, and express themselves perfectly satisfied with the traditions of their forefathers. They can scarcely be induced to accompany the children to the preaching of the Gospel on the Sabbath; on some Sabbaths a few attend, whilst on others not a single adult, male or female, appears. Out of the first twenty-six Sabbaths of this year, they have been assembled twelve, and the average attendance has been twenty-three adults."*

It becomes a matter of much importance to ascertain the disposition of the aborigines of a new Colony, whether friendly or otherwise to the Settlers. Most of the Colonies founded by Britain and other European powers have been marked by bloodshed. The native inhabitants of the country were generally of a ferocious character, and in too many instances, their naturally fierce and warlike disposition was aggravated by oppression or inroads by the whites. Collisions thus occurred, and many of the British Colonies have been founded and maintained at a great sacrifice of human life, or the extirpation of the original inhabitants. In this respect, South Australia forms a favourable exception. It is true, collisions have taken place occasionally between the blacks and whites, and lives have been lost on both sides; but these have been mostly isolated cases, and have never been followed by any general outbreak, nor is there any danger to fear that such will be the case in future. The disposition of the natives

* In his labours among the aborigines, the Protector is effectively assisted by two German missionaries who were sent out from Dresden.

in and around Adelaide, is decidedly friendly to the Settlers, and so long as government exercises a strict surveillance over all inroads upon their rights, or aggressions on their persons, there is no danger that disturbances will arise. The tribes in the interior are not always so friendly disposed. Conflicts between overland parties and some of these tribes have frequently occurred, although the object of the latter seemed to be a desire to obtain possession of the stock, rather than to take the lives of the party. Where they could not otherwise obtain their desire, they did not hesitate, however, to take human life. Even within the settled districts, several instances have occurred of murders having been committed by the blacks while endeavouring to possess themselves of the property of the Settlers. Such instances have been visited with prompt punishment by government, and means taken to explain to the blacks that every instance of aggression, either in the lives or property of the whites, would be severely punished. In 1839, two black men were executed for the murder of two English shepherds. The execution produced a strong impression on the minds of the other blacks, and since that time there has been no life taken by them in the neighbourhood of the capital. During the two following years, 1840-41, two natives were charged with attempts at murder, but discharged by the Supreme Court. During the same period nineteen others were charged with minor offences, as stealing potatoes, melons, &c., and assault. Seven of these were sentenced to imprisonment for periods of one to four weeks; the others were acquitted.

The tribes inhabiting the country around Adelaide, and all to the southward and eastward as far as the Murray, are known to the Settlers, and live amicably among them.

There is a tribe to the north which has yet had but little intercourse with the whites, and the squatters at the out-stations are sometimes liable to inroads from them, and occasionally a few sheep have been carried off. As they become more acquainted with the Settlers, and are made aware of the punishment which follows crime, it is probable that they will become as peaceable as the others.

The "Adelaide Tribe" generally take up their quarters on the park land adjoining the river, and some of them are always to be seen about the streets of the town. On the Queen's birth-day the whole of the neighbouring tribes are assembled at government house, and feasted on roast beef and pudding ; while blankets and various articles of dress are distributed among them. The governor usually addresses them through the interpreter on such occasions, and in this manner a friendly intercourse is always kept up.

[NOTE.—In the foregoing chapter I have introduced the substance, and in a few instances, the words, of a report made and published in the Colony by the Protector of the Aborigines, and the German missionaries, who being in daily intercourse with the natives, have, of course, better opportunities of becoming acquainted with their character, habits, and customs, than any other individuals. For the short specimens of their language, and a considerable portion of that which relates to their customs, &c., I am indebted to that report.]

CHAP. V.

PRODUCTIVE CAPABILITIES OF THE COLONY—
PROGRESS OF AGRICULTURE, &c.

“ Then all around was heard the crash of trees—
Trembling a while, then rushing to the ground—
The low of ox, and shouts of men who fired
The brushwood—or who tore the earth with ploughs ;—
The grain sprang thick and tall, and hid in green
The blackened hill side—ranks of spiky maize
Rose like a host embattled—the buck wheat
Whitened broad acres, scenting with its flowers—
The Autumn winds.”

I CAN scarcely imagine a more interesting scene than to observe a country in the course of being rescued from a state of nature—than to see the trackless desert transformed into cattle runs and corn fields—and although the emigrant who ventures into the wilds has much hard work to encounter, and many privations and hardships to undergo, yet the novel and interesting position in which he is placed, combined with a certain looking forward to something better, assist materially in keeping up his spirits, and encouraging him to persevere. And when he has once surmounted the difficulties of a first settlement, he usually finds himself well repaid for what sufferings he may have endured. The forest gives way to his axe—his flocks and herds increase rapidly—and he sees growing up around him, not only an abundance, but a superfluity, of the “ good things of this life.”

In wandering about through various parts of South Australia, soon after my arrival in that Colony, when man had not yet begun to wield the axe or follow the plough, often did I muse on what a field was presented for labour

and industry ; and on visiting the same places a year or two after, I have, in many cases, found the scene so changed, as to be barely recognisable. The grass, which then sprung only to wither and rot, is now cropped by flocks of sheep and herds of cattle—plots of the beautiful green sward have been torn up by the plough, and are seen covered with crops of waving grain—the original quiet solitude is disturbed by the merry ring of the blacksmith's anvil and the carpenter's hammer—the uniformity of the far stretching plains is relieved by scattered cottages of the Settlers—and the ever-green but dreary forests, which then only echoed to the howl of the wild dog, the screech of the paroquet, or the yell of the savage, now resound with the bark of the shepherd's dog, the bleating of sheep, and the lowing of cattle.

In this manner I have witnessed the greater portion of the settled districts of South Australia colonised. I have seen the plains and forests around Adelaide changed from their original desolation into a continued mass of farms—some thousands of acres bearing their first crops of wheat, maize, and barley—while the more distant parts, in which nor track nor trace of human being could be found when I first rode through them, I ultimately saw sprinkled with sheep and cattle stations, with occasionally a field of corn.

When I arrived in the Colony in March, 1839, cultivation of the soil (beyond gardens, and a few patches of wheat and maize), had not been attempted. The first selection of country lands having been delayed until May, 1838, and the seed-time being May and June—previous to which the land had to be fenced in and tilled—1839–40 was, of necessity, the first available season. During that season a sufficient amount of surface was got under crop

to test the capabilities of the soil, which, up to this time, were unknown. The result proved satisfactory; and emigrants continuing to arrive from England and Scotland in large numbers, and surveyed land being now plentiful, during the succeeding season of 1840-41 agricultural operations were prosecuted with considerable vigour—so much so, that the quantity of land placed under cultivation amounted to nearly 3000 acres.

A fair commencement being thus made, the farmers, encouraged by what experience they had obtained, proceeded with so much spirit, that in the third season—namely, that of 1841-42, the quantity of land under bearing was nearly trebled—no less than 8168 acres having been laid under crops of wheat, barley, oats, maize, and potatoes, as shown in the following table, which comprises an account of the several rural districts, with the particulars of the cropped lands in each :—

Districts.	Wheat. Acres.	Barley. Acres.	Oats. Acres.	Maize. Acres.	Potatoes. Acres.	Sundries, including gardens. Acres.
Adelaide.....	2091	589	300	353	153	157
Northern Districts....	324	26	32	40	19	21
Parra River.....	274	72	42	50	57	41
Mount Barker.....	514	65	69	82	106	100
Strathalbyn.....	55	15	4	3	14	6
Escounter Bay.....	97	28	13	37	22	5
Willunga.....	43	6	2	8	4	2
Morphett Vale.....	469	55	20	98	32	39
M'Laren Vale.....	192	38	17	46	24	7
Port Lincoln.....	49	4	4	20	25	27
Total.....	4108	898	503	732	456	405

At the moment I write, the results of the season 1842-43 are not known in this country; but from observations made previous to my departure from the Col-

ony, which are borne out by intelligence received since, I feel assured that there would be an increase of at least 50 per cent. on the previous year, and that the breadth of land under grain would amount to not less than 12,000 acres, which, if the season was favourable in an ordinary degree, would yield supplies of food beyond what would be required for home consumption. The latest advices from the Colony contains favourable accounts as to the prospects of the harvest, and speak confidently of an export of grain taking place.

The rapid progress of agriculture during the years 1839, 1840, and 1841, will be best understood by a reference to the following table, showing the quantity of land brought under cultivation, each year, from the commencement of the Colony:—

	1837.	1838.	1839.	1840.	1841.
Wheat (acres).....	...	20	120	915	4723
Barley do.....	...	1	28	258	1032
Oats do.....	...	5	30	246	578
Maize do.....	1	10	60	71	847
Potatoes do.....	1½	20	75	227	528
Crops not specified.....	...	...	70	971	460
Gardens.....	6	25	60	135	
Totals,.....	7½	81	443	2823	8168

I have already mentioned, that a great portion of the vallies and of the undulating country in South Australia consists of a deep black mould, and in other places of a reddish soil. This is all of the richest description, being mostly composed of a deposit of vegetable matter, formed by the withering of successive crops of rank grass, or by the residuum of the grass when it has been burnt. In the summer season the natives often fire the grass, in order to facilitate their hunting operations, and thus many miles, both of the mountains and vallies, are yearly sub-

jected to these conflagrations. The burnt matter thus accumulated for many years, nay centuries probably, and augmented by the washings from the hills in the winter months, has formed a rich alluvial deposit, in many places some feet in depth. This soil is very strong, and capable of producing almost any description of crop. Other parts of the country, especially the plains, such as those around Adelaide, are composed, as I already mentioned, of a sandy loam, which though not so rich as the black soil, yet bears good crops, and is fully as well fitted for some kinds of grain as the richer parts.

The plains of Adelaide were at one time termed by many parties barren; indeed, a famed Australian explorer gave it as his opinion that they would not produce crops. This idea, however, was soon proved to be fallacious, by the most incontestible evidence; and I presume even the gentleman mentioned has seen reason to change his opinion, as he is now occupying a farm on those very plains, and is earnestly prosecuting the cultivation of its soil with success.

Having premised thus much regarding the *progress* of agriculture and the nature of the soil, I may now proceed to describe the Australian mode of cultivation, and enumerate the various crops grown in the Colony.

Having obtained a section, or sections, of land, the first step taken by the Settler preparatory to cultivation, is to fence it, or so much of it as his means or inclination may permit. The most common mode of fencing is with posts and rails—that is, strong upright posts, having two, three, or four horizontal rails morticed into the uprights. These are made of split stringy bark, or gum wood. Many sections will supply a sufficient quantity of timber for fencing purposes; where such is not the case, the nearest

hills will generally be found to contain an abundance, which the Settler has only to cut and carry away. Some parties construct rough fences with branches of trees, having the ends stuck in the ground, and forming a kind of *chevaux de frisé*. Another plan frequently adopted, is to dig a trench or ditch round the field, forming a bank of the earth; and, in some cases, a single rail is run round the top of the bank. This description of fence effectually protects the crops from the summer fires, by which portions of unprotected crops are sometimes destroyed.

The cost of fencing varies according to the kind of fence adopted, the facility with which timber is obtained, &c.

The next step is "clearing," if necessary; but in a great many cases this is not requisite—the land being naturally clear of timber, and ready for the plough as soon as it is fenced. Where this is not the case, the clearing will probably go on simultaneously with the fencing, the trees being cut up for posts and rails. Digging the trees up by the root is the only effectual mode of clearing; but if there is not time for this, the trees are cut and burnt, or removed for fuel, allowing the roots to remain until after the first harvest, when more time can be afforded to get them out. In some instances the vitality of the trees is merely destroyed by making an incision through the bark all round; but the sooner they are wholly removed, with the principal roots, the better.

Ploughing is the next step. Bullocks are almost universally used for this and other purposes of draught; and the common Scotch plough is the favourite. In ordinary soils four bullocks are put to the plough. Besides the ploughman, a boy is required to drive the bullocks. Oxen are much easier and cheaper to keep than horses, as they are invariably turned out to feed at night when unyoked, and brought in again in the morning. Their

keep thus costs actually nothing. They may not do so much work as horses, however, but for breaking up land they are invariably preferred. For other draught purposes they are also infinitely superior to horses, especially in the country, where roads are scarce or bad. Bullocks will proceed with their dray through woods, over hills, and through the wildest country, where horses would be useless, or where they would destroy the dray, and probably endanger their own lives.

In breaking up the soil for the first time, it is generally tilled, if practicable, the season before the seed is sown, and allowed to remain fallow until the ensuing spring, when a cross ploughing is found to ensure a good crop. It has been found that the soil never produces well the first season, if only once turned up. I have seen many instances where on a once tilled soil the crop was almost a complete failure; but the second and succeeding crops produced abundantly. Ploughing is commenced as soon after the heat of summer is over as possible, and continued for the various crops throughout the rainy season.

Wheat, as in most other countries, is the most important crop. It is sown in the end of April, and during May and June. If later than June, it is apt to be caught and blighted by the hot winds ere it reaches maturity.

Barley is sown about the same time, or soon after the wheat. Oats are not cultivated to any extent, except to be cut green as food for horses. Although the climate and soil are well adapted for the growth of wheat and barley, it does not appear that oats will thrive well in most parts of the Colony, and therefore their cultivation is less attended to. I have seen extraordinary crops of oat straw, but the grain does not come to such perfection as it does in colder climes.

In September and October the maize or Indian corn is

planted, and grows during summer. Potatoes are planted in the low country during June and July; and in the upland districts at various times. Indeed, I believe, this valuable root may be planted at almost any period throughout the year when rain falls. I have seen two crops of potatoes grown on the same land between August and March.

The harvest commences in the end of November, and extends through all December. Wheat and barley ripen very rapidly, and the climate being so dry, they require to be promptly reaped, and are generally ready to be stacked almost as soon as cut. The maize harvest does not come on until March. The summer crops of potatoes are gathered in April—the winter crops in November and December.

Wheat, in most soils and situations, produces heavy crops. Fifty bushels, or upwards of six quarters, have frequently been reaped per acre. This is, however, far above the average, which ranges from 25 to 30 bushels per acre.

South Australian wheat is of fine quality, and weighs on the average rather more than that produced in England or Scotland. The bread made from it is very fine, and indeed the bakers generally mix with the flour a portion of Van Diemen's Land or Indian flour. The biscuit used on board the ship in which I came to this country, was baked in Adelaide, of South Australian flour, and it was pronounced by every one on board to be superior to any sea biscuit they had seen before.

"Smut" and "blight" are of frequent occurrence in the wheat crops; the former is generally caused I believe by the bad quality of the seed; the latter by the hot winds touching the grain while in blossom.

Conflicting opinions exist regarding the prevention of smut—some steep the seed in lime water—others in a solution of bluestone. Mr. John Reynell, an intelligent farmer, about twelve miles south of Adelaide, who rests his opinion on an experience of four years, during which he has had crops of wheat, states, that he would have no hesitation in guaranteeing any crop against smut, provided the seed is well washed in fresh water, and then steeped for a night in a solution of bluestone, using one pound to four or five gallons of water. He also remarks : —“Sundry opinions are held as to late sowing, &c. &c., augmenting smut. There is no doubt that, where the seed has not been very efficaciously dressed, bad tillage, late sowing, a bad season, or any circumstance which has a tendency to weaken the plant, does render it more liable to smut, as animals are more susceptible of disease when the general health is low ; but the fungus will, I believe, under no circumstances, attach itself to seed that has been dressed with bluestone.”

Blight is guarded against chiefly by early sowing, as I have already mentioned. Rolling the land after sowing is found useful, as it prevents the heat from taking such effect on the roots of the plants. Wheat sown in April or May has little, however, to fear from blight by the hot winds.

The principal wheat-growing districts at present are the reed beds, a track of very superior land lying between Adelaide and St. Vincent's Gulf ; the land adjoining the Banks of the Torrens ; and indeed the whole country for some miles around the capital in every direction. The proximity to the Adelaide market is an advantage to the Settlers in that locality. In the south, Hurtle Vale, Morphett Vale, and M'Laren Vale, are the sites of numer-

ous farms, on nearly all of which agriculture is carried on on a greater or lesser scale. The Mount Barker district possesses great advantages as an agricultural district, and though an extensive range of hills intervenes between it and Adelaide, a good road across has now been constructed, and the capabilities of that part will receive fair play. The Parra River and other districts to the north are all likewise the scenes of agricultural operations. Indeed the whole of the country presents inducements nearly equal to the agriculturist. The proximity to a market is the only circumstance which causes the neighbourhood of the capital to be the principal agricultural district.

Very fine crops of barley are produced, averaging, in ordinary soils and seasons, from thirty to forty bushels per acre. It is cultivated to a larger extent than any other grain—wheat excepted. It will now supersede the use of sugar in distillation; but should government carry out a plan proposed some time ago to prohibit internal distillation, or at least to impose such restrictions as would almost amount to a prohibition, the cultivation of barley cannot be carried to any great extent. It is to be hoped, however, that the English government will not sanction so short-sighted a measure as one for the prevention of distillation in the Colony, which would act as a direct check on agricultural industry, and render the Colonists under the necessity of importing from abroad that which might be manufactured from grain of their own growing.

Maize flourishes best on a heavy and rather damp soil. In such situations the produce of an acre not unfrequently amounts to sixty and even eighty bushels of grain. This grain requires a good deal of attention in hoeing, earthing up, &c.

Maize is frequently planted as the first crop on newly

broken up soil. Sometimes it is planted indeed without the soil being disturbed—holes being merely made in the grass at distances of three or four feet, and the seed dropped in and allowed to take its chance. In this way good crops are sometimes got, but in other instances they have entirely failed. It seems absolutely necessary, in order to obtain a good crop of any grain, to plough or dig the land well. I may mention a striking instance of this that I once observed on a farm belonging to Messrs Boord, on the banks of the Torrens. They had a flat of excellent land by the river side just cleared of trees, and not having time to plough it, they planted a crop of maize in holes dug among the grass. In some spots where trees had been rooted out and the soil disturbed, the seed sprung up, and the stems grew to a great size, and produced abundantly; but the plants among the grass were miserable sickly dwarfs, some of them not more than six inches high, and they never produced a single grain of corn. Mr. M'Arthur's remark—that though in no country in the world was nature more bountiful than in Australia, yet nowhere was the wise ordination of Providence, that what is most desired is only to be got by labour, more manifest—could have no illustration more apt than that mentioned.

The produce of the potato crop depends materially on the situation, season, and weather. I have known instances of very fine crops having been raised in one locality, while in another, though the seed was planted at the same time, there was almost a total failure. Much likewise depends on the seed, the mode of planting, &c., regarding which experience will be the best monitor.

The mildness of the climate and the continued supply of grass throughout the year, render the cultivation of any

artificial food for cattle unnecessary. Turnips are only grown in the gardens for domestic use. English grasses have not yet been introduced, except on a very small scale, and though their culture would be of consequence, yet there is an abundant supply of natural grass at present. The horses kept in town are fed on hay of the natural grass, or on that made of oat straw.

I may now advert to the more humble, though not less useful, kinds of food—such as vegetables, fruits, &c. In the winter season, every kind of vegetable known in England, and many which are unknown, flourish most luxuriantly in South Australia. Cabbages, cauliflowers, lettuces, spinach, peas, parsnips, turnips, carrots, radishes, leeks, onions, &c. &c., grow much more rapidly than in England, and are consequently more tender. There are also many vegetables unknown, or almost unknown, in Britain, such as the tomato, the egg plant, capsicum, *Crambe Maritima* (sea-kale), the artichoke, cardoon, Beta cicla, or silver beet, &c. &c. In summer the heat is generally too great for these sorts, except in moist shady situations, or where irrigation is practicable, but other vegetables adapted to a warm climate are then cultivated, such as the French bean, the Garavanzos, pumpkin, gourd, vegetable marrow, &c.

In fruits, South Australia cannot be expected *as yet* to be profuse. Time has not been afforded for the trees to arrive at maturity, but there is a bright prospect for the future. Even before I left the Colony, grapes, peaches, and figs, were selling in the market in small quantities. Melons of every description—than which a more delicious fruit could scarcely be found in a warm country—are produced in immense quantities, and of the richest flavour. Melons are in season from January till

April and May, and may be bought from 2d. each, upwards. I have seen water melons weighing from forty to sixty pounds. The fig, orange, lemon, citron, olive, pomegranate, apple, pear, plum, cherry, quince, and medlar, &c., are all thriving well in South Australia, and in a year or two their fruit will be plentiful. Indeed, there is scarcely any fruit, except what is strictly tropical, but will flourish in the open air; and even some tropical fruits are thriving, though it cannot be said that they are likely to arrive at perfection. I have, however, seen growing, in the same garden, the stately banana of the tropics, and the scraggy gooseberry of the colder regions. I have seen the vine, the orange, the olive, and the fig, flourishing in the greatest luxuriance, in the immediate vicinity of the apple, pear, and cherry.

The testimony of Mr. George Stevenson, a gentleman who went to the Colony in 1836, and who has devoted a great portion of his time and means to the cultivation of an extensive garden and orchard, gives very strong testimony in confirmation of these remarks. He says:—

“Among the useful and exportable fruits, the fig, almond, and olive, may be mentioned as growing with surpassing luxuriance. The two former have already produced fruit abundantly, and the few olives in the Colony indicate as near an approach to the bearing state as trees of their age (under five years) could be expected. In sheltered and favourable localities, the orange tribe will succeed. The plantain and pomegranate have also fruited, and, in suitable spots, will no doubt flourish, although I doubt if the former will ever attain here its true tropical magnificence.

“The sugar cane has been introduced, and is growing with great vigour; but for coffee, rice, or for the spice

tribe generally, there is not sufficient or long continued warmth.

"All varieties of the ordinary Persian or European stone fruits, have given satisfactory evidence of their fitness for the Colony. Even the common gooseberry, strawberry, and raspberry, thrive—nay, produce respectably on the 'hot and barren plains of Adelaide;' and were they removed to the more congenial district of Mount Barker, I have no doubt they would yield as abundantly as in their native climate."

But the most important fruit to which the attention of the South Australian Settlers has been directed is the VINE. Not only as yielding a luxury for home consumption, but as an article of commercial importance, this ranks first; and, from the very energetic measures used to introduce vine cuttings on an extensive scale into the Colony, it is evident the Settlers are perfectly aware of its importance, and intend to prosecute its cultivation. For myself, I can only speak of what I have seen, and can hardly pretend to offer an opinion as to the suitability of South Australia as a wine country. But as to the growth of the vine, I had almost weekly opportunities of observing its progress in South Australia, and can say thereupon, that its growth was most astonishing. In this I do not mean in wood alone, but in producing fruit. It generally takes five years before a cutting arrives at maturity to bear fruit; but I have seen in Adelaide cuttings of the second and third year bearing bunches of grapes. If I might judge by what I have seen of the growth and produce of the vine at the Cape of Good Hope, the Cape Verd Islands, &c., I should have no hesitation in saying, that South Australia seems better fitted to produce good wine than any of these

places. And in this opinion I am borne out by many parties who have lived in France and Germany, who unhesitatingly state their conviction, that South Australia must eventually become a wine producing country. It is dangerous, however, to interfere much with opinions, and it will be better to await the result of the present season, when experiments will be made to ascertain what quality of wine the grapes already in bearing will produce. Much, no doubt, will depend on the quality of the cuttings, and on the mode of culture. There are several practical vine dressers in the Colony, and every effort is made to diffuse useful information among the Settlers on this important subject. Many thousands of cuttings have also been introduced from New South Wales, the Cape, South America, and other places. The importation of a few good French and German vine dressers would be a great boon to the Colony and the Colonists.

Other fruits of commercial importance, as the orange, fig, olive, almond, &c., I have already said, grow luxuriantly. The olive and orange take some years to come to bearing, but the fig and almond are already producing abundantly.

The tobacco plant has been introduced and successfully cultivated. Whether it will be of a good quality or not cannot as yet be said. In New South Wales tobacco is largely cultivated, but used mostly as sheep wash—whether South Australia will produce it in greater perfection remains to be seen.

The castor oil plant grows luxuriantly in the Colony, but has never been put to any use. It is sometimes planted as an ornament, but grows and spreads so rapidly, that it often becomes a nuisance.

Experiments have also been made with the cotton

plant, sugar cane, indigo, and other valuable plants, and I have no doubt but these, and even the tea plant, could be successfully raised. These are matters of a questionable nature, however, and it would not be proper to dwell on them here. Should it be found that the soil and climate are suited to the tea plant, it would be a matter of great importance for the English Government to facilitate the settlement of Chinese Emigrants in the Australian Colonies. Thousands of Chinese would be glad to emigrate from China, Batavia, and other places in the East. There are several in South Australia already, settled chiefly as carpenters, but being aliens, they are not admitted to any privileges.

I have, by accident, in my possession, a list of nearly all the trees, shrubs, and plants, which have been naturalized in South Australia, which will come in as a good prefix to this chapter. It was prepared by an intelligent gardener from Scotland—a Mr. M'Ewen, gardener to Mr. Stevenson, whom I have already mentioned.

CATALOGUE OF PLANTS GROWING IN THE GARDEN OF GEO. STEVENSON, ESQ.

HARDY FRUIT TREES, SHRUBS, AND PLANTS.

Apple, 6 varieties.
Pear, 7 varieties.
Quince, mild or eatable variety.
Medlar, Nottingham medlar.
Loquat.
Rose Apple.
Kakil.
White Guava.
Cherimoyer.
Chinese Jujube.
Grandadilla.
Orange, 6 varieties.
Citron.
Lime.
Shaddock.
Lemon.
Osage Orange.

Pomegranate.
Olive, 4 varieties.
Peach, 10 varieties.
Nectarine, 3 varieties.
Apricot, 7 varieties.
Almond, 2 varieties.
Plum, 6 varieties.
Cherry, 6 varieties.
New Zealand Plum.
Date Plum.
Grape Vine.—Upwards of 75 varieties, including many of the best French and other descriptions.
Fig, 4 varieties.
Prickly Pear, several varieties.
Melon, many varieties.
Water Melon, do.
Cucumber, do.

Gooseberry, three varieties.

Black Currant.

Red Currant.

White Currant.

Mulberry.

Elder.

Raspberry, 2 kinds.

Strawberry, 3 kinds.

Cape Gooseberry.

Pine Apple,* 4 varieties.

Banana.

Plantain.

Walnut.

Filbert.

HARDY ORNAMENTAL TREES.

Araucaria, three varieties of

Pine.

Plane Tree, Oriental.

Willow, 2 varieties.

Lime Tree.

Laburnum.

Scotch do.

Common Ash.

Hawthorn.

Cassia.

Spindle Tree.

Fig Tree, Indian Rubber.

HARDY ORNAMENTAL SHRUBS.

Myrtle.

Alspice.

Hibiscus, 6 varieties.

Kerria.

Stork's Bill, 6 varieties.

Fuschias, 2 varieties.

Lilac, 2 varieties.

Cherry Tree, common Laurel.

Magnolia.

Coral Tree, Laurel leaved.

Rosebay, splendid.

Arbor Vita, China.

Swallow Wort.

Agave, 2 varieties.

Aloe, soap.

Zamia.

Rag Wort.

Thorn Apple.

Privet.

Wormwood.

Rose, upwards of 30 varieties.

Box Tree.

Bladder Senna.

Medlick.

Hydrangea.

Opuntia, 2 varieties.

Crassula.

Cereus, 3 varieties.

Epiphyllum, 5 varieties.

Stapelea.

Heath, 17 varieties.

**HARDY ORNAMENTAL CLIMB-
ING SHRUBS.**

Rose, 6 varieties.

Lophospermum.

Passion Flower.

Trumpet Flower, 4 varieties.

Jasmine.

Ivy.

Honaysuckle.

Bramble.

Dolichos.

HARDY HERBACEOUS PLANTS.

Sugar Cane.

Reed Grass.

Indian Shot.

Chrysanthemum, 6 varieties.

Snap Dragon, 3 varieties.

Marsh Mallow.

Pink, several varieties.

Penstemon.

Scabious.

Garland Flower.

Day Lily.

Marvel of Peru.

Dahlia, varieties.

Crow Foot.

Anemone.

Primrose.

Tulip.

Hyacinth.

Narcissus.

BULBOUS PLANTS.

Amaryllis, varieties.

Anomatheca.

Babiana.

Bruna Vigia.

Ferraria.

Sword Lily, 4 varieties.

Blood Flower.

Ixia, 5 varieties.

Lily, varieties.

Nerine.

Wood Sorrell.

* The Pine Apple is the only plant which has received protection, and it is simply treated as a green-house plant.

Star of Bethlem.

Tuberose.

Sponoxis, 3 varieties.

Tritonia.

Watsonia, 3 varieties.

HARDY ANNUALS—of various kinds.

POT HERBS AND GARNISHINGS.

Parsley.

Scurvy Grass.

Ginger.

Indian Cress.

Marygold.

SWEET HERBS.

Thyme.

Sage.

Mint.

Majoram.

Savory.

Basil.

Rosemary.

Lavender.

PLANTS USED AS PRESERVES AND PICKLES.

Love Apple.

Capaicum.

PLANTS USED IN TARTS AND MEDICINES.

Rhubarb.

Gourd.

Pumpkin.

Vegetable Marrow.

Caroway.

Hysop.

Balm.

ESCULENT ROOTS.

Yam.

Sunflower.

Jerusalem Artichoke.

Experience has thus fully proved that the climate and soil of South Australia are amply qualified to yield every kind of vegetable food that man requires, besides many luxuries which even this favoured country does not produce.

Intimately connected with the progress of agricultural pursuits, is the opening of roads affording facilities for transporting the produce of the soil to a market. Although in a young Colony like South Australia, extending over a great surface of country, it cannot be supposed that anything like regular roads have been made, yet there is no district of the Colony which is not of easy access. In this respect nature has done much. A great proportion of the roads into the interior are formed by the natural soil, and in this condition, except in the midst of the rainy season, they are good, and the traffic on them easily carried on. In such places as natural difficulties occurred, a considerable amount of labour was expended by order of Governor Gawler, during his administration. In some places roads have been cut

through scrub, in others abrupt hills have been cut through, or a road formed so as to avoid the worst part. Bridges have been erected over rivers, creeks, and gullies, &c. In this respect Governor Gawler did much for the Colony, and without inflicting any burdens, as the labour employed by him has been all paid by the English government.

A road has been surveyed and made practicable from Adelaide through the whole of the southern districts as far as Encounter Bay. For the first twenty miles this road has required little labour. At the Sturt River, six miles south from Adelaide, a bridge has been erected, and the road cut and macadamized for some distance on either side. At Onkaparinga, fifteen miles farther south, a substantial wooden bridge, 100 feet in span, is erected across the river, and a good road formed up the hill for some distance. At Willunga, seven miles farther to the south, the mountain ranges have to be surmounted, and several cuts have been made to relieve the steepness of the ascent. A branch leaves the main road two miles south of Willunga, and leads along the sea coast through the valleys of Miponga, Curraculunga, and Karrapootungah, until it reaches Yankalilla. This branch opens the whole of the country to the south as far as Cape Jervis. In laying it out, a considerable amount of clearing was necessary, and twenty-five creeks and water-courses had bridges thrown over them.

The main road is continued to the southward, through the scrubby moor country mentioned in Chap. II., and in some places the dense scrub had to be cut ere a practicable track for drays could be got. It leads ultimately to Encounter Bay, a branch striking off to the eastward to Currency Creek. The whole of the southern districts,

stretching for sixty miles, have thus easy access to the capital.

The hills intervening between the town and the districts of Mount Barker, Strathalbyn, and the Murray, presented great difficulties against the formation of a good practicable road to the East. For some years the Mount Lofty Range, which rises to the height of 3000 feet above the level of the sea, was crossed by a rough track made by the drays. In some places very steep hills had to be ascended, deep ravines crossed, and the transport of goods across the ranges was neither easy nor free of danger. The fine country lying to the eastward, however, soon drew many Settlers in that direction, and Government found it necessary to make exertions, to discover, if possible, a better route for a road, and to make such improvements as might be necessary. After investigation, a good route was discovered, and operations commenced. Much labour was necessary in forming the road, as the line surveyed led sometimes up a ravine, sometimes along the face of a hill, so that retaining walls had to be built, excavations made, and bridges erected. This work was in course of rapid progress when Governor Gawler was removed from office, and his successor either had not the means or the inclination to carry it through. This was a great disappointment to the Settlers beyond the ranges, and having consulted together, they agreed that, rather than have the work abandoned, they would advance the requisite funds, provided Government would authorise them to levy a toll to pay the interest. This was agreed to, and a bill was passed, and trustees appointed, under whom the work was carried on; and part of the road—namely, the ascent to the top of the ranges from the Adelaide side—was completed and thrown

open to the public in 1841, a toll having been erected, and a charge levied on all vehicles, cattle, sheep, &c., which pass through it.

The roads throughout the Mount Barker district, and to the districts farther east, are good naturally. In some places where a little improvement was necessary, the Settlers have done it of their own accord.

The northern districts of the province are likewise easily accessible, with but little aid from the road maker. A few wooden bridges, thrown over creeks, are almost the only improvements which have been made in that direction.

CHAP. VI.

SHEEP AND CATTLE FARMING.

"The present unexampled prosperity of *New South Wales* is chiefly to be traced to the production of fine wool, which is the staple export."

AWARE of the truth of the above extract from Mr. M'Arthur's work, the early Settlers in South Australia considered the importation of some of the best breeds of sheep an object of primary importance. So soon, therefore, as a settlement was effected, communications were opened with Van Diemen's Land and Port Philip, and shipments of stock for the new Colony were made from both these places. The transport by sea was, however, both expensive and hazardous, and a practicable route overland from the Eastern settlements having been dis-

covered, all other means of transit were soon superseded, and many thousands of fine woolled sheep were driven over by the New South Wales Settlers, and disposed of to the South Australians.

To such an extent were these overland importations carried, that, combined with the increase by breeding of those already in the Colony, the wool shorn from the flocks which, in 1838 was conveyed to England in a single small vessel, in 1839 filled two ships of considerable burden ;—in 1840 four ships were required, and, in 1841, no less than six vessels were loaded, chiefly with wool.

During the first two years of the existence of the Colony, cattle and horses were likewise imported by sea from New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land, but were brought over by land in large numbers during 1839, 1840, and 1841.

The number of sheep in the Colony in the beginning of 1842 was 250,000 ; of cattle, 16,000 ; of horses, 1000. Every description of stock increases very rapidly by breeding, and it is not therefore probable that any farther importations will take place, but that on the contrary, South Australia will soon be in a position to export both cattle and sheep, should a favourable market offer. Indeed, a few shipments to Swan River and other places have already been made.

On the first establishment of the Colony all kinds of stock were very expensive. Good cows were frequently sold as high as £20 a head ; horses from £80 to £120 ; and breeding ewes could not be purchased under £2 to £3 each. As importation increased, prices gradually fell, and cows can now be purchased at prices varying from £5 to £10 ; horses from £30 to £40 ; and breeding ewes from 12s. to 20s. a head.

Some farmers devote their attention almost exclusively to sheep—others to breeding and rearing cattle on a large scale. Others keep what is called “a dairy station,” rearing or killing the calves, and making butter and cheese for the Adelaide market. Agricultural farmers too have generally a few head of cattle to supply their families with milk, butter, and cheese.

There are two classes of sheep and cattle farmers—those who form establishments on their own property, or on rented land ; and “squatters” who settle on unappropriated lands wherever a favourable locality presents itself.

When a person purchases land with the intention of keeping stock, he, if possible, makes a selection which commands good water and a “back run”—that is a track of hill country, which is not surveyed, or likely to be purchased for agricultural purposes, but yet affords good pasture. There is no such thing known in Australia as buying land for the mere purpose of grazing. The purchases are all confined to good agricultural soil, and the flocks or herds of the Settler are dependant for food chiefly on the surrounding unoccupied country.

The squatter purchases no land at all. He selects the the best spot he can find in the unsold districts, and there settles himself until the land on which he is located is disposed of, and he must then shift his camp, and find another situation farther inland. Thus the squatter is always liable to be warned off ; but for this he cares not. He gets grass and water for his stock for nothing, and as he erects no permanent dwelling, his place of residence is soon shifted, and at a trifling expense. The only erections at a squatting station are a turf or slab hut, or probably a tent. The hurdles for the sheep yards are moveable, and carried from place to place.

When South Australia was established, the Commissioners made a regulation that every purchaser of an eighty-acre section of land, should be entitled to claim on lease from the crown a square mile of pasture at a nominal rent of £2 per annum. This regulation it was found impracticable to carry out, and therefore it was not put in force in the Colony. The present governor has, however, introduced a mode something similar to that adopted in New South Wales, of giving licenses to squatters, for which they are to pay a small sum annually. The licenses will entitle them to depasture their flocks in a certain locality, and their runs will be fixed by an officer appointed for that purpose. This measure will be of considerable benefit to the Settlers, as at present there is no rule or regulation among squatters, and encroachments on one another's runs, and consequent squabbles, are of constant occurrence. Things are something like what they were in the patriarchal days, when the shepherds could not agree about the wells and pastures.

The operations at a sheep station are in most instances confined solely to the care of the flocks. Supplies of flour and dairy produce are got from a neighbouring agricultural farm, and are paid for in fat wethers. Tea, sugar, &c., are got from town, and are accounted for when the produce of the clipping season is disposed of.

Sheep are divided into flocks containing from 500 to 1000 each, according to the nature of the country. Where the "run" is free from timber, or but lightly wooded, one shepherd will take charge of 800 or 1000 sheep; if forest country, the flocks are limited to 500 or 600. The sheep are always driven at night into the pens, which are formed of moveable hurdles, and the shepherd or hut-keeper, with his dog, sleeps in a moveable box placed

close to the fold. At sunrise the flock is counted out of the pens and sent out to graze, the shepherd attending them constantly until they return in the evening.

The regular lambing season in South Australia is May and June. Some flocks, however, drop their lambs at other seasons, as many flockmasters regulate the lambings so as to have three droppings in two years. The general increase in healthy flocks is calculated at eighty per cent. each lambing, after all losses, &c., have been deducted, though I have known many instances where the increase was far above that average.

The shearing season is, for old sheep in November and December, and for lambs in February. Most of the sheep farmers wash the sheep, if practicable, before shearing. The weight of a fleece of wool varies from two to three pounds, and upwards.

There are numbers of regular sheep shearers—mostly men from the neighbouring Colonies—who go about the country in the clipping season, and contract for shearing the flocks of the Settlers. Many of these men are very expert, and will shear a great number of sheep in the course of a day. When cut from the sheep, the wool is packed in large canvas bags, each holding from two to three cwt., and then forwarded on drays to Adelaide, where it is disposed of to the merchants at prices varying according to quality and condition, from 6d. to 1s. per pound. Some large sheep-owners ship their own wool to England and await their returns, but the greater portion of the clip is purchased by the merchants. When the bales reach Adelaide they are opened, and the wool is repacked with a press, so as to crush it into less bulk, and it is then ready for shipment. On board the ship it is again subjected to machinery, and screwed into less than

one-third its original size. The freight to England is from 1½d. to 2d. per pound.

The only disease of any consequence to which sheep are subject in South Australia is scab. This disease was very prevalent among the flocks in the early stages of the Colony, but it is now gradually disappearing before the active measures adopted by the flockmasters to cleanse their flocks, and the precautions adopted by Government to prevent the introduction of diseased animals, and the spread of infection among those already in the Colony.

The scab is a cutaneous disease, of a very infectious nature, so much so, that if a flock of diseased sheep feed for a few hours on a field, any clean sheep that may come thereafter will catch the infection. At the earnest request of the sheep farmers, the late Governor passed an act, imposing a heavy penalty on any sheep introduced into the Colony affected with scab, and also a penalty on all whose flocks were found to be unhealthy, after a certain time had been given to cleanse them. To carry out the provisions of the act, an officer is appointed, whose duty it is to examine all the flocks, and see that proper measures are taken to cleanse such as are affected. To defray the expenses of this, sheep are subjected to a poll tax of 10d. per score.

The cure for this disease is a solution of corrosive sublimate, which is generally applied after shearing. As a precautionary measure, a dressing with tobacco water is usually given to sheep even of clean flocks when they are shorn.

Foot rot is seldom seen in the Colony, the pastures being mostly dry. In uncommonly moist seasons, and in low situations, it occurs occasionally, but not so as to cause any great mortality. Catarrh is a very pre-

valent and deadly disease in some parts of New South Wales and Port Philip, but happily it has never reached South Australia.

Cattle breeding is followed by some persons on nearly the same principle as sheep farming. Stations are formed in the country, where herds, containing from 100 to 1000 head of cattle, are superintended by one or more stockmen. The cattle are allowed to roam about the woods night and day the whole year round, being only driven into the stock-yard at such times as may be necessary, to brand young cattle, &c.

A "cattle station" is sometimes formed on Government land, sometimes on the Settler's own property, but commanding a run, in the same way as a sheep station. The only erections required are a substantial stock-yard, and a hut or tent for the persons who have charge of the herd. These are called stockmen, or stock keepers. Each one is furnished with a good serviceable horse, and an immense whip, which he handles with great dexterity. The handle of the whip is only about eighteen inches long, but the lash is from ten to fourteen feet in length. Such a ponderous-looking affair seems rather unwieldy in the hands of any one but a stockman, but by him it is used with the greatest ease and effect, even when mounted, and his horse going at full gallop. In following the cattle, or searching for such as may have strayed, stockmen always go on horseback, and they are expert and fearless riders.

In searching for strayed cattle, these men are often in the "Bush"* for days together, galloping through woods and over plains—across hills, mountains, and rivers—with-

* "The Bush"—the usual term for any part of the country.

out road or track of any kind, but so accustomed are they to the wilds of the forests, that they never go astray, and seldom fail to find such cattle as they go in search of. On such occasions, they take with them a blanket, a little tea, sugar, and bread, and armed with the immense stock whip, set out on their journey. When night comes, the horse is unsaddled and turned out to graze; and the bushman, having made tea for himself in a tin mug or "pannikin," covers himself with his blanket, and with his saddle for a pillow, betakes himself to sleep under the nearest tree. He continues this course from day to day, until he has succeeded in fulfilling the purpose for which he set out, when he returns to the station.

One stockman will take charge of a large herd of cattle. If married, his wife will live at the station and cook his food; if not, a boy is employed to act as cook; &c. Supplies of flour, pork, and tea and sugar, are sent up as required by the proprietor, who also visits the station occasionally on horseback.

A "dairy station" is very different from a squating one, where a solitary hut is tenanted by a single ferocious-looking bearded and moustached bushman and his cook. At the dairy station we find a regular farm establishment—dairy houses, sheds, and dwelling-house, with the necessary complement of dairy maids, stockmen, &c.

At dairy stations, the cattle are likewise allowed to feed generally night and day. They are driven into the stock-yard morning and evening to be milked. In the yard "bails" are erected, in which the cow is held while she is being milked. The operation is almost universally performed by men.

When the milk is converted into butter and cheese, it is carried into Adelaide in spring carts, and disposed

of to the dealers. Some farmers enter into a contract with a merchant or storekeeper, to take the dairy produce of the season at a fixed price. Butter and cheese of excellent qualities are now made to a very large extent in the Colony; so that exportation of both to Van Diemen's Land, and other places, has been commenced. Specimens have also been brought to this country, and pronounced equal to some of the best kinds of English cheese.

The largest cattle stations in South Australia at present, are those of Mr. J. B. Hack, at Mount Barker, who has 1000 head of cattle, old and young; the South Australian Company, whose herds amount to 1160; the Cattle Company, 600; Messrs. Frew & Rankin, Strathalbyn, 1758 head; Mr. Harris, Glenorchie, 900 head; Messrs. Frew & Crawford, 360; Messrs. J. & W. Jacobs, 300 head; Mr. Dutton, Port Lincoln, 250 head; Mr. Robinson, Yankallilla, 200 head; and many others have herds of 100 head and upwards. These are only small, however, compared with the herds of many stockholders in the older Colonies; but they are only the commencements of the various Settlers, some of whom have only recently purchased their herds, with the view of increasing them by breeding.

There are of course many establishments on a smaller scale than those mentioned—from the stockholder who owns a thousand head of cattle, down to the mechanic, who thinks himself rich in the possession of a single cow.

The largest sheep holders in the Colony are the South Australian Company, who have 20,000 sheep; Mr. Gleeson, 3500; Mr. Lodwick, Onkaparinga, 3000; Mr. Reynell, Hurtle Vale, 4000; Mr. Freeman, 3200; Mr. Duncan McFarlane, Mount Barker, 10,000; Mr. Phillips,

merchant, 4000; Mr. Gemmell, Strathalbyn, 3500; Messrs. Jones, Yankallilla, 5000; Mr. George Anstey, Parra, 10,000; Messrs. Dutton & Bagot, 11,000; Mr. Baker, merchant, 6000; Mr John Hughes, Gilbert River, 5000; Mr R. L. Leake, 6000; Messrs. Hopkins & Green, 4000; Mr. Horrocks, River Hutt, 3200; Messrs. Peters, 5000, &c. These were the numbers of their flocks in the end of 1841. It may also be remarked here, that many of the Settlers mentioned have only lately commenced sheep farming, and the numbers enumerated are consequently merely the ground work of their flocks.

Horses of various breeds have been imported into South Australia. There are a few thorough breeds from England; some strong draught horses, sprung originally out of an English stock, from Van Diemen's Land and New South Wales; a few of the Arab breed from the East Indies; and a great number of dwarfish but hardy ponies from Lombok and Timor. Besides these, there are mongrel breeds of every description, brought over from the older Colonies.

Some Settlers are directing their attention to the breeding of horses, as a lucrative branch of Colonial farming. Mr. Hack, already mentioned, has upwards of 120 horses, of all ages, among which are a great many breeding mares and young animals; and some of the other farmers have from 10 to 20 mares breeding. The Colony will soon be plentifully supplied however, and there seems no probability of any foreign market offering for horses, so that this branch is not likely to be carried to any great extent. Van Diemen's Land, New Zealand, and even the Mauritius, present good markets for cattle and sheep; and beef can always be cured and supplied to the shipping which frequent the Port, and to the whalers which abound in

these seas; but there is no probability of a demand arising for horses beyond the wants of the Colonists.

Goats are reared in considerable numbers, and are very useful. Pigs and poultry are also reared in great numbers, and fatten well on maize, &c. Pork of excellent quality, and well flavoured, is always supplied by the butchers in abundance; and some owners of pigs have begun salting it down for supplying the whaling stations.

There are several Colonial laws which affect the farmer that may be noticed here. The principal of these are a cattle registry, and an impounding act. The intention of the registry act, which was passed by Col. Gawler, was to prevent the stealing of cattle. This law renders it necessary for every stockholder to select a distinctive mark or brand, which is to be put on all his cattle. These brands are all registered, so that no similar mark can be taken by two persons. Once registered, all cattle bearing that brand can be claimed by the Settler wherever he finds them; and cattle having no brands are claimed as the property of Government.

The provisions of the impounding act are to protect the crops of the agriculturists from damage by cattle, or other animals; and, therefore, cattle which are found astray in any field which is fenced, may be seized and sent to the nearest pound—of which there are several, erected in various parts of the country. They are there detained until the damage and poundage is paid. As the findings of an impounding act in a country like South Australia, where so many hundreds of cattle are constantly straying, might be turned to a bad account at times, care is taken that fictitious impounding, or impounding on frivolous pretences, is not encouraged.

I may conclude this chapter by appending the following

table, showing the quantity of stock in the Colony in the beginning of 1842, and the increase during the three preceding years from breeding and importation :—

	1838.	1839.	1840.	1841.
Sheep	28,000	108,700	200,160	250,500
Cattle	2,500	7,600	15,100	16,696
Horses	480	800	1,060	1,252

CHAP. VII.

COMMERCIAL MATTERS.

“ See the tall ship extend her swelling sails,
To carry England's commerce o'er the deep !”

In a commercial point of view South Australia holds an advantageous position among the numerous settlements in that quarter of the globe. Although the primary requisites in settling a Colony are a good soil and a genial clime, yet a position affording facilities for commerce is too important an object to be overlooked, and on its capabilities in this respect will depend much of its ultimate success.

The principal harbours of South Australia command an easy and regular communication with all the other Australian settlements, as well as with India, China, and England ; and vessels bound from Port Adelaide or Port Lincoln to Britain or the East Indies, can, at all seasons, proceed round Cape Leuwin, thus avoiding the dangerous navigation of Torres Straits, or the stormy and disagreeable route round Cape Horn.

This advantage in point of geographical position, com-

bined with the capacity and eligibility of the harbours of Port Adelaide and Port Lincoln, as commercial entrepôts, renders it extremely probable that South Australia will, in a short time, become a dépôt for Indian and Chinese goods for the other colonies. A considerable trade is already opened with these countries, and large quantities of the goods imported from thence are re-shipped in coasting vessels for the neighbouring settlements of New South Wales, Port Phillip, and Van Diemen's Land, as opportunities of a market offer.

It could not be expected that hitherto much commerce should have been carried on between South Australia and other countries. A few years are required to bring the productive capabilities of a new Colony into play, during which time her trade must consist chiefly in importing. This has been the case with South Australia. The pastures were to stock, and the land to till, ere any returns could be looked for. The tide of commerce has now, however, begun to flow in the right direction; and although it is not probable that, for a few years to come, the value of South Australian exports will amount to as large a sum as that of the imports, yet their equalization will approach rapidly every year.

A retrospective view of the commerce of the Colony will show the truth of this. In 1837 about thirty tons of sperm oil, valued at £3000, were exported to the mother country. This oil was taken by one of the ships belonging to the South Australian Company, on her outward voyage. In 1838 a small quantity of oil, the produce of the whale fishery, and of wool, the produce of the first shearing season was exported—the value of the whole being about £4000. In 1839 the value of the exports had risen to nearly £10,000; and in 1840 to no less than £20,000. The value of the exports in 1841

was estimated in the Colony at £50,000, but the sum realised did not exceed £40,000. This was derived from various articles of export produced in the Colony, and exclusive of considerable quantities of merchandise re-shipped to the neighbouring settlements.

The principal articles of export consist of wool and whale oil. In addition to these, small shipments have been made of timber, bark, hides, horns, tallow, butter, cheese, slates, fat cattle, and sheep. The oil and wool are sent to Britain. The neighbouring colonies of New South Wales, Van Diemen's Land, and New Zealand, and even the Mauritius, offer a market for many of the other articles. Samples of preserved beef and pork have also been forwarded to this country, and other places, and from their quality, and the cheap rate at which preserved beef can be landed in England, there is every prospect of a considerable traffic in the latter article taking place.

The value of the imports into South Australia I have not the means of ascertaining correctly. The official returns have been swelled out by the immense quantities of goods with which South Australia, in common with the other Colonies, has been deluged during the last three or four years. The stores of the merchants, the auction rooms, the bonded stores, and the retail shops have been filled with goods for which there was no proportionate demand—many of the articles being unfitted for the market. The English merchants have completely glutted the markets throughout Australia of late years, and it will take some time ere the effects of this glut pass away.* The evil will remedy itself however. Owing to the over supply, goods have been forced to sale, and

* By recent advices from the Colony, it appears that in *some* articles the glut has passed away, and sales had been effected of goods to arrive.

disposed of at a great sacrifice, and the loss falls principally on the English exporters, who have thus frustrated their own purposes. These losses will tend to prevent such extensive and indiscriminate shipments in future, so that ere long the markets will be restored to a healthy state.

In the first Chapter, I mentioned that the dishonour of a great amount of government bills by the commissioners, and the subsequent suspension of a large proportion of the government expenditure, produced disastrous effects on mercantile affairs in the Colony. This depression was considerably heightened by the fact just mentioned, namely, an over supply of every description of merchandise.

I may here allude more particularly to that "crisis." The chief causes from which it arose I have already mentioned, namely, the sudden check caused by the reduction of the expenditure of the Colonial government, from about £150,000 to £30,000 a-year—the absorption of a great amount of capital in the purchase of land, stock, and provisions—an unfortunate spirit of speculation, in which many spent their time and means, instead of tilling the soil—and the cessation of the introduction into the Colony of capital from the mother country, at the very time it was most wanted to supply the place of that which had been expended for stock and provisions.

So many unfavourable circumstances, arising almost simultaneously, could not be otherwise than productive of much mischief. Every man in the Colony was affected more or less, and it is indeed wonderful that so young a Colony has stood the severe test so well as South Australia has done.

Still, notwithstanding the very depressed state of mat-

ters, the Colony, as such, is not in a bad state. Far from it. It has been said that South Australia was bankrupt, and the Settlers starving, and other statements equally mischievous and erroneous have been circulated. For these there is no foundation. It cannot be denied that many of the Colonists have become bankrupt—have been brought to this condition by the force of circumstances over which they had no control; but there is more real available property in the province than would liquidate all demands on the Settlers ten times over. All that is wanted is a circulating medium—a something to represent property.

While writing these passages, I have seen a letter from an intelligent gentleman in Adelaide, dated three months after my departure, which contains some sensible remarks on the state of the Colony and its prospects, from which I shall quote a few sentences. He says, speaking of the crisis and the causes of it :—

“ The present governor is acting on diametrically opposite principles to his predecessor. But whether right or wrong in principle, it is too sudden a change for our small community to bear. He has amalgamated offices, reduced salaries, and discharged clerks, messengers, and labourers from every department. All the evils are not, however, to be attributed to the change of policy in the Government. Nothing was done in the shape of agriculture till last year. But could it be expected that the settlers would commence while wages were so high? and could private individuals control the rate of wages? Immigration kept pouring in upon us, and yet the increase of population seemed but to increase the rate of wages. The high rate of wages led to a state of great profusion and luxury among the labouring classes; and this, with the purchase of all the necessaries of life, turned the balance of trade completely against us. *The circulating capital of the colony becomes absorbed; the measures of the Government hasten the climax; immigration ceases; and the crisis comes.*

The present state of affairs in the Colony is a perfect anomaly—we are almost starving in the midst of plenty. We cannot complain of a sterile soil or blighting seasons; no, we have a fertile soil,

fruitful seasons, and a genial clime. The crops generally have more than answered the expectations of the settlers, and the flocks and herds have greatly increased. Capital to a very large amount has been invested in land, houses, &c. Here is a country beautifully fertile, and capable of abundant gifts for the plough, the fleece, and the vine; for horses, cattle, and sheep. The whole, though great in amount, seems unavailing in use; great in intrinsic value, yet lying dead and powerless, nought but a *vis inertiae*. All is darkened and negated, *not by the want of property, but money*. But we have yet hopes.

The local causes of our adversity have ceased to operate—the experience of the past will be a guide and a warning for the future; and our claims for the sympathy and support of the British Government, though long delayed, will doubtless eventually be admitted. The error of attempting to fix a largely disproportionate part of the population as a commercial city has been exploded; the fallacy of large investments in unproductive buildings has detected itself. The fictitious and gambling value attached to mere land has been destroyed. The avaricious excess of price in goods and labour, which put us out of keeping with the rest of the world, has ceased; and the extravagance consequent on exorbitant wages, which has aggravated, by improvident consumption, the heavy balance of imports against us, has been checked. The operations of last year have thrown a great light upon the seasons and soils; and, doubtless, a little experience will be found profitable. Land, labour, and produce are now cheap, and nothing is wanting but the circulation of a little of the ‘ready’ (to use a colonial phrase,) to infuse new life into us, and put the Settlers on their legs again.”

The above is almost entirely in accordance with my own opinions. But the crisis is now past the climax, and the importation of a moderate amount of capital, brought into active employment, would restore the Colony to a state more healthy than it has been at any previous period. It is now completely stocked, and producing nearly all the necessaries of life in abundance; and for such, articles of manufacture, tea, sugar, &c., as the wants of the Colonists may require, there are wool, oil, and other articles to send in exchange.

I have considered it necessary to refer so far to this

monetary crisis, as it has been held up by many parties as showing that South Australia has failed as a Colony, and that it is, as a widely circulated journal, published in the Scottish capital, some time since asserted, "decidedly the worst Colony under the British Crown." Never was a more fallacious statement given to the public than this. Although injudicious speculation, and official mismanagement, combined with other circumstances incidental to all new Colonies, have resulted in bringing on a great mercantile depression, the real elements of colonial prosperity are abundant within South Australia, and can never be destroyed by any pressure. Instead of holding forth the crisis as a bugbear against emigration, it might be used as a strong argument on the other side. Capital is now of more value than before—stock of every description cheaper—labour plentiful and cheap—and money can be invested with far less risk than when the Colony was in an apparently more prosperous state.

I may thus take leave of the "crisis," and return to the proper subject of this Chapter.

On the foundation of South Australia, articles of British manufacture, provisions, agricultural implements, and such like, were imported by the Colonists from Britain. When the Colony was fairly established, a trade with the neighbouring settlements sprung up, and cattle, horses, sheep, and provisions, were imported in large quantities. Subsequently intelligence was spread of the formation of the new settlement, and the merchants in Singapore began to send down supplies of tea, sugar, rice, &c.; wine and fruit were brought from the Cape of Good Hope; sugar from the Mauritius; and sundry articles of Indian produce from Calcutta.

At present the import trade of the Colony may be summed up as follows:—

From Britain—manufactured goods of every description, spirits and wines, ale and beer, deals, glass, soap, salt, &c.

From Singapore—tea, sugar, rice, sago, cedar, furniture, cigars.

From Mauritius—sugar.

From the Cape—wines, dried fruits, coffee.

From Van Diemen's Land—wheat, flour, oats, and potatoes.*

From New South Wales—cedar and sundries.

A few vessels have carried cargoes from the Continent to Port Adelaide, and one schooner from the United States disposed of part of her cargo of flour, spirits, and tobacco, there, early in 1842.

The exports are, as I have stated, as yet but comparatively small, but are yearly increasing at a rapid rate.

To England are exported wool, oil, seal-skins, hides, horns, and whalebone, with small quantities of timber, bark, lead ore, tallow, and curiosities.

To Swan River—cattle, sheep, and horses.

To Van Diemen's Land—fat cattle, butter, cheese, tallow, and melons.

To New South Wales—slates, butter, and cheese.

The export of articles, the produce of the Colony for 1841, was as follows:—

Butter, 106 kegs and cases.

Bark, 6 hhds. 3 cases.

Cheese, 8 cases.

Cattle, 77.

Firewood, 10 tons.

Gum, 3 casks.

Gum Logs, 34.

Hides, 185.

Hides, 36 cases, 14 casks, 3 bales.

Hay, 5 tons, 56 trusses.

Horns, 3 casks.

Horses, 19.

* The importation of wheat, flour, and potatoes from Van Diemen's Land, will by this time have ceased.

Lead ore, 77 cases.
 Lime, 8 casks, 20 boxes.
 Limestone, 55 tons.
 Lard, 42 casks.
 Melons, 23 casks.
 Minerals, 5 cases.

Oil (whale), 443 casks.
 Seal skins, 25 casks.
 Slates, 85,000.
 Sheep, 2810.
 Whalebone, 485 bundles.
 Wool, 1905 bales.

In addition to the above, the following articles were exported, which, though not Colonial produce, must be put to the per contra of the imports:—

Ale and beer, 260 casks.
 Apparel, 7 cases.
 Bags, 25 bales.
 Boats, 2.
 Beef, 47 casks, 12 tierces.
 Chairs, 50.
 Candles, 34 boxes.
 Coffee, 341 bags.
 Copper, 167 sheets.
 Cocoa nuts, 724.
 Cigars, 724 boxes.
 Crockery, 16 casks.
 Deals, 120.
 Drapery, 87 cases.
 Dried fruits, 96 boxes.
 Flour (sago), 167 bags.
 Glass, 7 crates.
 Guns, 43 cases.
 Ginger, 20 cases.
 Hams, 40.
 Ironmongery, 29 cases.
 Lead, 56 baskets.
 Mustard, 73 cases.
 Oatmeal, 69 bolls.
 Paint, 89 kegs.
 Pepper and spices, 89 cases.
 Pipes, 6 boxes.

Paper, 4 bundles.
 Pork, 224 barrels.
 Pickles, 66 cases.
 Rice, 820 bags.
 Raisins, 51 boxes.
 Rope, 41 coils.
 Sago, 154 boxes.
 Soap, 56 boxes.
 Salt, 620 bags, 45 casks.
 Soda, 7 casks.
 Shingles, 51,000.
 Steam-engine, 1.
 Spirits—Brandy, 111 hhds., 33 cases.
 Rum, 110 casks.
 Gin, 408 cases, 130 brls., 14 qr. casks.
 Ships' stores, 240 cases.
 Sugar, 920 bags.
 Sundries, 245 cases.
 Tea, 934 chests, 886 boxes, 186 half boxes, 205 qr. boxes.
 Types, 16 cases.
 Tobacco, 114 kegs.
 Timber, 1014 pieces.
 Wines, 104 pipes, 20 hhds., 30 half do., 20 qr. do., 15 cases.

A considerable trade is likely to spring up in supplying whaling vessels with vegetables, corned meat, &c. The seas around are crowded with whalers—French and American chiefly—which used to resort to Hobart Town every season for refreshments, but a great many of them will now prefer Port Adelaide, as it is more convenient to the fishing grounds, and provisions can be got as cheap there as in Van Diemen's Land. The season before I left, three whalers—one French, one American, and one.

English—put into Port Adelaide and obtained supplies, and from the reports their commanders carried away, many others will be induced to follow their example.

In the early stages of the Colony, the unimproved and inconvenient state of the Port, and the exorbitant charge for transporting goods from the landing place to town, were great drawbacks on the commercial enterprise of the Settlers. The Port itself is commodious and safe,* but in its natural state, it could not be expected to command facilities for discharging or loading cargoes.

To remedy this, a proposal was made to erect wharves some distance below the spot where ships usually discharged. This project was first brought forward by the Colonial Manager of the South Australian Company, and to that gentleman, and to the liberality of the proprietary of the company in London, South Australia is mainly indebted for the excellent harbour accommodation she now possesses. In order to obtain access to the spot which was fixed on for the erection of the wharves, it became necessary to form a road across an intervening

* As it has been asserted frequently in print, and once before a Committee of the House of Commons, that Port Adelaide was quite the opposite of this, I may here give my humble testimony regarding it. I have examined every nook and corner of it, from the bar upwards, and have no hesitation in saying, that I have never been in a safer or more convenient harbour than it is, for ships not above 600 tons. In confirmation of my own opinion, I am happily enabled to give that of Captain STOKES, of H. M. S. *Beagle*, surveying ship, who surveyed the harbour in January, 1842. He terms it, in a despatch to Governor Grey, a "NATURAL DOCK;" and, if further evidence were wanting, the following letter, signed by eleven shipmasters, would be sufficient:—

"Port Adelaide, 20th Dec. 1841.

"We, who hereunto annex our names, being commanders of vessels now lying in Port Adelaide, beg, before quitting the port, to express publicly our opinion of its capabilities and accommodations. Port Adelaide is a safe and commodious harbour, capable of containing a great number of vessels with safety. At present there are six barques and ships, four brigs, a steamer, and five

swamp, which cost an immense amount of labour and expense.* Excellent wooden wharves were also erected, extending 366 feet in length, alongside of which there is a depth of fifteen feet of water, at low water, besides a space of 112 feet at one end of the wharf. An excellent commodious store was also erected, capable of holding 2000 tons of goods. Part of it is now used as a bonded store by Government, and the remainder is rented by a private company, who carry on business as shipping agents.

Simultaneously with these operations, Government began another wharf adjoining that of the company, with

schooners, lying here. Two barques, each of upwards of 300 tons, two brigs, and two schooners, are alongside the wharf, discharging and loading, and the remainder on the opposite side. Five of these, viz., two barques, two brigs, and a schooner, are loading cargoes for Britain, and three undergoing repair. We have therefore no hesitation in saying, that Port Adelaide is as safe, and affords as great facilities for loading and unloading, as *any port in the Australian colonies*.

- " H. W. GIBB, barque 'Fama' of London.
- W. ROGERS, barque 'Orissa' of London.
- OSBORN DELANO, ship 'Mercator' of New Bedford.
- W. GALBRAITH, barque 'Alcmena' of Leith.
- D. McLEAN, brig 'Francis Yates' of London.
- H. JONES, schooner 'Duke of Sussex,' of London.
- B. F. SIMMONS, schooner 'Vixen' of Swan River.
- W. D. DOVE, brig 'Daphne' of Greenock.
- D. TALBOT, schooner 'Waterwitch' of Port Adelaide.
- A. DRYSDALE, brig 'King Henry' of Glasgow.
- G. W. BROWN, schooner 'Hawk' of London."

This may appear to some unnecessary, but my object is to remove false impressions, and when I state that such representations had been made regarding Port Adelaide by an officer in the navy, that the insurance brokers declined at one time to effect insurance on vessels bound thither, I think no one will accuse me of referring so minutely to this matter without cause.

* By recent official accounts from the Colony, it appears that the Governor had made an agreement with the Colonial Manager of the Company to have the Road transferred to Government for £12,000—that sum to be expended in the purchase of 12,000 acres of land—and it is understood that this arrangement has been approved of by the Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies. In consequence of this, the road remains open to the public without the imposition of any toll dues.

extensive sheds attached, and a custom-house was erected close by. When the works on the company's side were completed, they were thrown open to the public on the 14th of October, 1840. Governor Gawler and his lady were present—a general holiday was observed—man, woman, and child, having felt deeply interested in the completion of so important an undertaking. These measures effectually secured to the Colony ample harbour accommodation, and facilities for discharging and loading ships.

The charge for conveyance of goods to town is now very much reduced. At one time the cost of transport to Adelaide from the Port was fully as great as the freight from England, but now the usual charge for carriage is from 4s. to 5s. per ton.

Up to the middle of 1842, the duties on imported goods were trifling—all kinds of merchandise, except wines, spirits, and tobacco, having been admitted free. By later intelligence from the Colony, I learn that Governor Grey has imposed duties on all other articles of commerce. It is to be hoped that, in levying such imposts, great caution will be used, and a strict surveillance maintained by the Home Government, inasmuch as I regret to find, that in many of his Excellency's proceedings he has pursued a very vacillating policy—a policy calculated materially to injure the commerce of the province, and cramp the energies of the Colonists.

One of Captain Grey's acts was to raise the postage on letters to a high rate, thinking thereby to augment the revenue. The reverse was, however, the result, and he was obliged, after a few weeks' trial, to lower it again. He then raised the charges on shipping, but the result was equally unsatisfactory. Instead of increasing the revenue,

this proceeding had the effect of driving away many of the vessels which had previously been content to make what they could of such small freights as were going, but who could not afford to pay the exorbitant rates imposed by the local government. The Governor had therefore, after a few weeks' trial, to reduce the charges to nearly the former scale. Such sudden changes as these must be productive of incalculable injury to the Colony; and I trust the English Government will not encourage his Excellency in any such experimental legislation, and that they will soon see meet to give the Colonists a voice in the Council, which will act as a salutary check on all abuse of authority on the part of those who are at the head of affairs.

There is no question but duties or taxes of some kind must be imposed to raise a revenue, but great care should be taken that in a new Colony these are laid on in a way the least obnoxious, and so as to have the least injurious influence on the commercial enterprise of the Settlers.

The following are the duties leviable on imported goods as published in the *Government Gazette* of the 11th August, 1842:—

Spirits, foreign.....	12s. per gal.
... from British possessions.....	8s. ...
... Colonial distilled.....	8s. ...
Wine, foreign, <i>ad valorem</i>	15 per cent.
Tobacco, manufactured.....	2s. per lb.
... unmanufactured.....	1s. 6d. ...
Cigars.....	5s. ...
Tea, sugar, coffee, flour, meal, wheat, rice, and other grain.....	5 per cent.
Porter, ale, &c.....	10 ...
Other merchandise.....	10 ...

The charges on shipping are as follows:—

PILOTAGE DUES FOR ENTERING AND LEAVING PORT.

For every Vessel drawing 7 feet, and under,	£3	0	0
Do. do. 8 do. 9	3	10	0
Do. do. 9 do. 10	4	0	0

For every Vessel drawing 10 feet, and under 11,				£4	10	0
Do.	do.	11	do.	12	5	0 0
Do.	do.	12	do.	13	5	10 0
Do.	do.	13	do.	14	6	0 0
Do.	do.	14	do.	15	6	10 0

And so on, increasing Ten Shillings for every additional foot.

HARBOUR DUES.

For every Vessel under 100 tons,				£0	5	0
Do.	do.	of 100 tons, and under 200 tons,		0	15	0
Do.	do.	of 200	do.	300	1	10 0
Do.	do.	of 300	do.	400	2	0 0
Do.	do.	of 400	do.	500	2	10 0
Do.	do.	of 500 tons and upwards,		3	0	0

The rates of wharfage vary according to the packages. Ordinary sized cases are charged 6d. each, larger ones from 1s. to 2s.

Goods are mostly sent out to the Colony on consignment; and are disposed of by the merchants and commission agents to the retailers. The charge for commission is 5 per cent.—or where payments are guaranteed $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Payments in the Colony are usually made by acceptances at three months after date.

The monetary affairs of the merchants are transacted through the banks, two in number, namely, the Bank of South Australia, and the Australasian Bank. The first establishment was originally carried on by the South Australian Company, but it is now separated from the Company's other operations; and although the proprietary in both departments is substantially the same, it is not entirely so. The transactions of the Bank of South Australia are mostly confined to the Colony, and with England; but there are agencies in the various neighbouring Settlements, as well as in the principal ports of India, &c. The rates of exchange vary according to the state of the money market. Discounts on good bills are charged at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum; on overdue bills, 12 per cent. per annum. Ten per cent. is charged

on cash credits. The interest allowed is—on current accounts, 2 per cent.; on deposits for three months, 5 per cent.; and on deposits lodged for twelve months, 7 per cent.

The Bank of Australasia is a Branch of the Bank in London incorporated by Royal Charter under that name. The mode of transacting business, and the charges, are similar to those of the Bank of South Australia.

As illustrative of the monetary affairs of the Colony, I subjoin returns of the assets and liabilities of both Banks. It may be mentioned, that these returns relate to the half-year during which the crisis was felt most severely.

The average weekly amount of the liabilities and assets of the Bank of South Australia, from 25th Nov., 1841, to 30th May, 1842, was as follows:—

LIABILITIES.

	£	s.	d.
Notes in circulation not bearing Interest, - -	10,010	12	11
Bills in circulation not bearing Interest, - -	1,570	12	10
Balances due to other Banks, - - - - -	572	15	2
Cash deposited, bearing Interest, - - - - -	43,669	4	7
Total Liabilities, - - - - -	£55,803	5	6

ASSETS.

	£	s.	d.
Gold, silver, and other metals, - - - - -	12,063	18	9
Landed property, Bank premises, &c. - - -	5,883	19	5
Balances due from other Banks, - - - - -	2,249	3	4
Debts due to the Bank, including bills, notes, &c. -	167,331	18	7
Total Assets, - - - - -	£187,479	0	1

The return for the Australasian Bank for the half year ending 10th October, 1842, was—

LIABILITIES.

Notes in circulation, - - - - -	£2,770	15	4
Bills in circulation, - - - - -	1,872	2	0
Cash deposited bearing Interest, - - - - -	15,792	18	4
	£20,435	15	8

ASSETS.

Gold, silver, &c. - - - - -	£8,416	2	10
Debts due to the Bank, including bills, notes, &c. -	36,164	3	8
	£44,580	6	6

In addition to these two Banks, there are an Insurance Company and an Auction Company, established by the Colonists, both of whom traffic in discounts and loans, on property upon mortgage. The Insurance Company also effects policies of Insurance on houses and other property, as well as Marine and Life Assurances. I am not aware of the rates charged, but I believe they are considerably higher than in England. The Company's affairs are managed by a Board of Directors. The shares originally were £25,—10 per cent. being paid up.

A Chamber of Commerce has been established in the Colony for some years, consisting of all the principal merchants. It has frequently been of considerable service to the Colony, by making representations to Government on matters connected with the commercial interests of the Province.

Intimately connected with the commercial importance of South Australia is the whale fishery. The waters of the great bight of Australia, stretching from King George's Sound to Cape Northumberland, abound with black whales, and South Australia commands the whole of that sea. In the winter season the fish come into the bays all along the coast in great numbers, and a most lucrative fishing might be carried on in many of them. The Adelaide merchants have established a bay whaling station at Encounter Bay, one on Kangaroo Island, and another at Sleaford Bay; and the oil and bone of these fisheries form articles of export to the mother country to the amount of £10,000 to £15,000 yearly. Still this is nothing to what might be done; and it is astonishing that the merchants and shipowners of London, ever on the look-out for opportunities of employing capital, should let so favourable a field for investment escape their notice. Nearly the whole of the whale fishery on the southern coast of Aus-

tralia is abandoned to foreigners, French and Americans—who every year fill up valuable cargoes at the very doors of the British Settlers. I have known foreign whalers to anchor in the Bays of South Australia, and kill fish actually in sight of the British Settlers. Yet Government takes no steps to prevent such gross encroachments on the rights of its subjects; while they think nothing of expending thousands of pounds, and hundreds of human lives, in prosecuting enterprises which are never likely to produce the slightest national or individual benefit. The foreign whalers sweep the seas along the Australian coast every year of many thousands of pounds worth of oil and bone, which, in all justice, ought to belong to the British Colonists.

As South Australia advances, her Settlers will no doubt extend their operations in this department; but so long as foreigners are permitted to chase the whales out of our very harbours, there is little hope that it will be carried to anything like the extent it would otherwise be. Thousands of tons of British shipping, and hundreds of British seamen, might find ample and profitable employment where Americans and Frenchmen have at present almost a monopoly.

CHAP. VIII.

SKETCH OF ADELAIDE AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES—COLONIAL LIFE AND MANNERS.

“ Here merchants most do congregate.”

It has already been mentioned, that the town or city of Adelaide is built on a rising ground, on each bank of the River Torrens, by which it is divided into North and South Adelaide. The situation is pleasant and airy, and commands views of the surrounding country, of the Mount Lofty Ranges, and of St. Vincent's Gulf.

The land on which the town is built, consisted of an open grassy forest, and though most of the trees have now disappeared in those places which are thickly inhabited, there are portions of the town that still retain much of their original appearance, being studded with fine large gum trees, which afford an evergreen shade to the cottages round which they stand.

A considerable space on each side of the river, and a belt all round the town, was reserved on the original plan as park lands, or pleasure grounds for the citizens. Along the river side, and to the east of the town, this affords delightful walks and landscapes even in its natural state; and when the town council has replenished their coffers, so as to be in a position to enclose the land, to lay out walks, &c., it will make one of the most delightful pleasure grounds in the world. It already possesses all the appearance of a fine park, and only requires walks laid out, and a few shrubs planted, to render it complete.

The town covers a large space of ground—something upwards of 1000 acres having been sold as building

allotments, besides streets, squares, &c. The streets are all of great breadth, running east and west, parallel to each other, and are intersected by cross streets, running north and south. The narrowest streets, as laid down in the original plan, are sixty-six feet wide, and many others are ninety-nine feet. The principal streets which intersect the town are one hundred and thirty-two feet in width. This is South Adelaide. North Adelaide is not so regularly laid out, having been planned to suit the ground, which is of an uneven character. South Adelaide is the spot where nearly all business is transacted—North Adelaide is mostly composed of residences of merchants, Government officers, and others.

The principal streets are—North Terrace, Hindley Street, and Rundle Street, which are a continuation of each other, and Currie and Grenfell Streets, which are similarly situated. These lie to the north of South Adelaide, and in them are situated most of the principal shops and warehouses, auction rooms, hotels, club houses, newspaper offices, &c.

Many of the buildings in Adelaide are not only substantial, but handsome—the shops are large and showy, and the various articles of merchandise are displayed in the windows, and at the doors, to catch the eye of the passer-by. The warehouses are capacious, and contain a supply of all articles required by the retailer. Some of the hotels are extensive buildings, and afford every convenience and comfort which an English hotel supplies. The banks, two in number, are situated in North Terrace, which fronts the river. The Bank of South Australia is a fine stone building lately erected, and fitted up in the best style; the other, the Bank of Australasia, is a plain, low, unassuming cottage.

The Club House, situated in Hindley Street, is a substantial good-looking building, containing extensive accommodation—sleeping and otherwise. Many Settlers in the country are members of the Club, and resort to it when in town on business. Strangers are admitted for a time on being introduced by a member. A reading-room is attached to the Club Rooms, which is supplied with English and Colonial papers and periodicals.

There are no less than *eleven* churches in Adelaide of various denominations. Of these, the first is Trinity Church, an old-fashioned looking building, erected in the early stages of the Colony, partly of limestone and partly of brick. The walls are not even plastered, and the windows are small cottage casements, about a foot and a half wide. It is built in the shape of a cross, and a low clumsy steeple stands at one end.

St. John's Church is a plain but comfortable-looking and neatly finished brick edifice, lately finished, situate in the south-eastern part of the town, and is the second Episcopalian church.

A very handsome, commodious, and well finished chapel, belonging to the Wesleyan Methodists, stands in a private street leading from Rundle Street to Grenfell Street; and another very creditable chapel, belonging to the Independents, is situate at no great distance from the former. These buildings are of stone, and chastely but tastefully finished.

The Scottish Dissenters have lately completed the erection of a very neat chapel in the centre of the town. Though not large, it is substantially built of stone, and well finished internally.

The Baptists have a small unassuming chapel in Hind-

ley Street;* and, in addition to these, there are three other small places of worship in connection with the Methodists. The small chapel belonging to the Society of Friends, and the premises used by the Roman Catholics, make up the number of places of worship mentioned.

Every one of these buildings has been erected by the private subscription of the Colonists, on whom also falls the support of the pastors. The incumbent of Trinity Church receives £200 a-year from Government as colonial chaplain; and one or two of the other ministers have been partly supported by societies in this country; but the Colonists have, voluntarily and cheerfully, borne most of the burden of erecting their own churches, and supporting their pastors. It is to be regretted that the members of the Church of Scotland, though a considerable body in the Colony, have as yet no regular place of worship. A minister arrived shortly before I left, and endeavours were being made to get a church erected, and in the meantime they had the use of the Baptist Chapel for divine service.

There are numerous scholastic establishments in Adelaide, and one or two in the rural districts. The principal of these are—a Classical Academy kept by the Rev. Mr. Stow, the Independent Pastor, and assistants; a Classical and English School, by the Rev. Mr. Drummond, Minister of the Scottish Dissenters; the South Australian School Society's School, conducted by Mr. Oldham; an Infant School, which is under the management of a committee of ladies; and an Academy at Mount Barker, conducted by Mr. M'Gowan, the author of several popular English school books. There are

* This has been since used by the Scottish Presbyterians, who have not yet got a church of their own erected.

also several Seminaries for the education of young ladies, and Sunday Schools in connexion with the various congregations.

The other public buildings in Adelaide consist of the Government House, the Government Offices, Jail, Theatre, Public School, Musical Saloon, &c.

The Government House is built on the park lands between North and South Adelaide. It is a handsome building, though apparently incomplete, the late Governor having built it on a plan which admitted of its being enlarged at a future time. The Government Offices are situated in the centre of the town, and consist of a line of buildings one storey high, composing a parallelogram, and having a handsome front towards the south. They are built of stone, and slated. They contain the offices of the Colonial Secretary, Treasurer, Survey and Land Department, Registry Office, Sheriff's Office, and the Supreme Court Chambers.

The Jail is an extensive and not inelegant erection, on the banks of the river, a little below the town. It forms a section of an octagon, and contains lines of cells strongly built of brick, and surrounded by a high stone wall, flanked by watch towers at each corner. The front is towards the south, and the entrance is through the house set apart for the governor of the jail. It, as well as Government House, is incomplete.

The Theatre is a large brick and stone building, situate near Currie Street, and contains, in addition to the Playhouse, extensive saloons and sleeping rooms, which are occupied as a hotel. The Theatre is very handsomely finished, and tastefully fitted up, and is capable of holding about 1200 persons. It was built and furnished at great expense by a single Colonist, Mr. E. Solomon, and a *corps*

dramatique has been kept up for some time, but it is found that to maintain a theatrical company is rather too premature for the Colony.

A very neat music saloon, or concert room, was lately built, also by a private individual, towards the south part of the town, in which balls and concerts are held frequently.

It will be seen from these remarks, that South Australia has already begun to assume the appearance of a considerable community, surrounded by most of the concomitants and comforts of civilized life; and the contrast between Adelaide as it now is, and as it was in 1837, which I have already attempted to describe, will at least show that the Colonists have not been idle, and that those who now proceed to the Colony will have no need to fear any of those inconveniences to which the early Settlers were constantly exposed.

In literature, South Australia is not behind her other acquirements. There are, or were, four newspapers published in Adelaide—one twice a week, the other three weekly. These are all conducted with considerable talent, and besides political subjects, contain full accounts of all matters connected with the progress or prospects of the Colony, all new discoveries, &c. A monthly magazine was also established some time ago, which contains original articles—fact and fiction—on various subjects connected with the Colony—original poetry—and extracts from English periodicals and publications. There is also an almanac published yearly, which, in addition to the usual tables in such a work, contains much useful statistical matter—lists of the various Government officers—and a Directory both of the merchants and others in town, and of the farmers scattered throughout the country.

The population of Adelaide, according to a census taken

by Government early in 1841, was—males, 3430; females, 3237; total, 6667. This was the population of the town; that of the suburbs, or of the villages within the municipality, was 1932.

Almost every one of the ordinary branches of industry is carried on in Adelaide. There are merchants, shopkeepers (or storekeepers as is the Colonial phrase), auctioneers, commission agents for land, houses, and stock, lawyers, doctors, apothecaries, bakers, butchers, publicans, lodging-house keepers, saddlers, shoemakers, tailors, braziers, watchmakers, jewellers, masons, carpenters, joiners, livery stable keepers, green grocers, coach builders, printers, &c. &c. &c. There are three or four distilleries in or close to Adelaide, a brewery, two tanneries, a candle manufactory, and no less than five steam mills for grinding wheat.

There is a lodge of Free Masons, who hold their meetings in the saloon, at the theatre; a branch of Odd-Fellows, who have lately erected a lodge; a Temperance and Rechabite Society, with a great number of members; and various other Friendly Associations. An agricultural association has been formed, which holds yearly meetings for the purpose of exhibiting stock and agricultural and horticultural produce, prizes being given for the best specimens. A literary and scientific association and mechanics' institute has been for some time in existence, and is liberally supported. There is a respectable library in connection with this association; and a course of lectures is delivered yearly on various topics of literature and science, and matters bearing on the prosperity and progress of the Colony.

The town and suburbs of Adelaide are placed under the management of a municipal corporation, consisting of a

Mayor, three Aldermen, and fifteen Councillors. These, with the exception of the Mayor and senior Alderman, are elected annually. Hitherto the transactions of this body have been few. Scarcely anything has been done beyond the appointment of a few officers, to pay whose salaries the Council has been involved in debt. A market has been established at Thebarton, a village close to Adelaide, for the weekly sale of cattle and sheep; and a slaughter-house in its neighbourhood, where the butchers are obliged to kill all their beasts. Beyond this the Corporation has done but little—partly from paucity of funds—partly from a want of knowledge as to what its powers were. The Council is not very popular, and I observe from some of the last papers received from the Colony, that it has fallen into a misunderstanding with the Governor. They have passed some bye-laws for regulating various matters about the town, but many of the citizens are not very willing to submit to their rules, and there were symptoms of a decided resistance to the payment of the last rate imposed, one of 7d. in the pound.

The powers of the Corporation are rather limited—the Governor having retained in his hand power to overrule any of their transactions. Any regulation which may be passed by the Council must be laid before the Governor, who may cancel it altogether if he thinks proper; so that in the event of anything being done that might offend the representative of the Crown, and that person possessed of a vindictive spirit, the Town Council would become a complete nonentity. As an instance of this I may state, that the police force, which the citizens are to be called on to support, is still to remain under the management of the Crown, and other things quite as absurd are contained in the Colonial Act under which the Council hold office.

The police of Adelaide is a most effective and well disciplined body. The town, or "metropolitan police" as it was called by Governor Gawler, consists of 36 to 40 men, who perambulate the streets night and day. These wear a uniform, and are regularly drilled by their superintendents, some of whom have been officers in the army. The mounted police consists of about an equal number of active young men, well mounted and accoutred. Their head quarters is Adelaide, but they are intended chiefly for the country districts, to prevent bushranging, cattle stealing, &c., and a few are stationed at the principal out stations. The police is, as I have said, most effective, so that bushranging, and similar crimes, with which the neighbouring Colonies are constantly visited, are almost unknown in South Australia. An attempt was made by some runaway convicts at one time to carry on a system of bushranging, but ere many days had elapsed from the time they committed the first crime, they were dogged and lodged in prison, and the prompt and condign punishment which followed struck terror into the minds of all others who might have a disposition to commit similar depredations, and bushranging has never since been heard of in the Colony.

The laws of South Australia are more severe than those of this country, as the statutes lately passed abolishing capital punishments in cases of highway robbery, and the like, do not extend to that Colony. The spirit of these statutes is however, in most instances, carried out by the Governor, who has the power to remit sentences; and although sentence of death is passed on those convicted of highway robbery, forgery, &c., the punishment is usually commuted to transportation for life to New South Wales, or Van Diemen's Land. In such a case as the one I have mentioned, however, where robbery was attended by as-

sault, or an attempt at murder, the extreme penalty of the law is inflicted.

The law is administered in the Colony at present by Charles Cooper, Esq., chief (and only) judge. The English statutes are those which apply to the Colony. The Supreme Court is held in a building, the private property of the judge, at the southern extremity of the town, and sits for the trial of civil and criminal cases three times a year, or oftener if necessary. Petty offences, and small debt cases under £20, are disposed of by a paid magistrate, who sits every morning in a building in Currie Street. Cases of assault, intoxication on the streets, and such like, are visited with fine or short imprisonment; such cases as are of a more serious nature, are handed over to the Supreme Court. Members of the English or Scottish Bar are permitted to practice in the Courts after a residence of six months in the Colony.

Up to the middle of 1841 the police formed the only protection the Colonists possessed. Soon after Governor Grey's arrival in the Colony, however, a company of soldiers was ordered from Van Diemen's to South Australia. The number is about eighty men, rank and file, and three commissioned officers. These are stationed in barracks in Adelaide, with small detachments at Port Lincoln, and on the Murray. They have little or no duty to perform, beyond maintaining sentinels at the jail, at government house, and at their own barracks.

In enumerating the government offices, I neglected to mention the Post-office, which is situated at the corner of the North Terrace in the private residence of the Postmaster-General. The office is open every day from 9 A.M. to 6 P.M. for the receipt and delivery of letters. Mails are established regularly between Adelaide and dif-

ferent places in the country. These are mostly carried on horseback. A mail cart carrying passengers runs to and from the Port every day; and weekly communications are kept up between Adelaide and the following country post-offices :—Mount Barker, Gawler Town on the Para, Morphett Vale, Onkaparinga, Willunga, and Encounter Bay. The charges of postage are 8d. per half-ounce on letters from places beyond seas, and a graduated scale, according to the distance, on letters posted and delivered in the Colony.

Adelaide may be said to be the only town in South Australia. There are a number of villages, however, scattered throughout the country, some of which contain a considerable population. It was at one time a favourite scheme to lay out a section of land as a "township," and dispose of the land in minute portions to labourers, mechanics, &c. In this manner almost every district boasts its township, although in many cases the site is only discernable by a board containing its name or the name of some of the streets, with the pegs which mark the boundaries of the "lots." The largest of the suburban villages are Thebarton, Hindmarsh, and Bowden, built on three adjoining sections of land close to the Torrens, just below Adelaide, and on the border of the park lands. The inhabitants of these villages consist of mechanics, labourers, &c., who have houses of their own, cultivate small gardens, rear a few pigs and poultry, and find employment among the surrounding farmers. One of the steam flour-mills, already mentioned, is in Hindmarsh, and another in Thebarton. The latter place also contains a tannery, numerous brick-works, &c. There is a small church in Hindmarsh, in which one of the Adelaide ministers performs divine service occasionally.

Next to these are the villages of Walkerville, Klemzig, and Kensington—the two former on the banks of the Torrens, above Adelaide; the latter on a creek to the eastward of the town. These villages are very pleasantly situated, and contain numbers of neat comfortable cottages. Some of the merchants and others engaged in business in town have places of residence in Walkerville or Kensington.

Klemzig is a German village, containing about 160 families, part of a body of German Lutherans who were obliged to abandon their country on account of persecution for their religion, and who settled in the Colony under the auspices of George Fife Angas, Esq., a merchant in London. Each family has a plot of land on lease, on which they cultivate vegetables, wheat, maize, and potatoes. Almost every family has also a few cows, and thus the villagers lead a happy and independent life, and by their sobriety, industry, and general exemplary conduct, hold out a good example to all the other Colonists. There is another German village named Hahndorf, in the Mount Barker district, after the same plan as Klemzig, and the emigrants are employed in similar pursuits. A third body of Germans reached the Colony shortly before I left it, and were forming a settlement in the north, about Lyndoch Valley. These Germans are the most persevering Colonists South Australia can boast of. They are possessed of a plodding industry and a contented disposition, which enables them to put up with many inconveniences at which English Settlers would grumble, and though not so energetic as English emigrants, they are better qualified for undergoing the hardships of a first settlement. I used to take a pleasure in visiting their villages from time to time, to watch the

slow but steady progress they made: At first they began by digging their gardens and carrying the produce to market, either on their backs or in hand trucks. By and bye a German would be seen with a truck drawn by a Timor pony or a single bullock, and ere I left the Colony many of them had got respectable looking drays, with a good horse or a couple of bullocks to drag them. Thus these men who began with almost nothing, have got in Klemzig alone 150 head of cattle, 40 horses and ponies, and had in 1841, under cultivation, 167 acres of wheat, 56 acres of barley, 10 acres of oats, and several acres of potatoes, besides numerous gardens. At Hahndorf their progress and prosperity were equally satisfactory.

At each of these German villages there is a church, and the Rev. Mr. Kavel, their pastor, labours earnestly among the villagers. The body which arrived last was also accompanied by a minister of the gospel.

Next in importance to the villages already mentioned, may be named Albert Town, in the vicinity of Port Adelaide; Islington, on the plain below the capital; and Port Adelaide itself. The latter place is little more than a small village, the population consisting of a few ship carpenters, fishermen, boatmen, and ship-chandlers, three or four publicans, several shipping agents, the men employed in the harbour and customs department, a couple of butchers, a sailmaker, a blacksmith, &c. Albert Town, which is immediately beyond the swamp which backs the landing place, is preferred by some, whose occupation is at the Port, as a place of residence. This village contains a good number of houses erected by mechanics, fishermen, &c., employed at the Port.

In addition to these, there is an almost innumerable number of villages laid out throughout the country, some

of which exist, as yet, only in name—others contain a few houses, the residences probably of a carpenter, blacksmith, or shoemaker. In the district around Adelaide, there are the so-called marine township of Glenelg, the villages of Brighton, Marion, Richmond, Edwardston, Mackgill, Chingford, Netly, Goodwood, Payneham, Plympton Hamlets, Welwyn, Cowandilla, New Richmond, Twickenham, Clifton, Dublin at Morphett Vale, (particularly recommended by the owner as containing an everlasting supply of firewood;) Noarlanga at Onkaparinga; Willunga, and the township of Encounter Bay; a township at Currency Creek; Cannobie at Strathalbyn; Nairne, Balhannah, and Mount Barker, in the Mount Barker district; Gawler Town on the Para, Port Gawler at do., &c. &c.

With regard to "men and manners" in South Australia. Society flows in free and unobstructed channels. Sociality and conviviality are kept up among the Colonists, but they are not trammelled by an excess of useless ceremony or affectation, which impart too much of an unnatural aspect to English society. Nor is there any exclusiveness; and although nothing can be met with approaching to that total disregard of civility or refinement commonly seen in many districts of the United States, yet there exists a frankness and an absence of all that is fictitious and unnecessary, that gives a greater zest to society than if encumbered with too severe forms.

In the country this characteristic is carried to even a greater extent than in Adelaide; and the almost universal hospitality which a traveller receives from the Settlers, seldom fails to impress a stranger with a feeling of gratitude and sympathy towards those individuals, many of whom have abandoned refined society, with all its

supposed pleasures, for the rude and humble hut or log-house of the Bushman. But I have often seen more real happiness and comfort in the Bushman's solitary dwelling than could be found among the votaries of pleasure, or in the splendid mansions of wealth. The wild and almost solitary life of a Bushman may appear to many to possess but few charms, but I have almost invariably found the reverse to be the case. Their independent, and in many cases romantic mode of life, the busy and profitable employment in which all are engaged, combined with the delights of a climate almost unrivalled, and in the midst of a country where industry and perseverance are sure to yield an abundance "of the good things of this life," produce a charm to which almost every one ultimately yields.

The ladies of Adelaide dress well, and are always on the look out for the latest fashions from England. The male part of the population pay less attention to this, and are actuated more by a desire for comfortable clothing adapted to the weather, than by any desire for show. In winter the clothing is similar to that in use in this country; in summer light drill coats, trousers of a like material, and straw-hats are commonly worn.

CHAP. IX.

CONCLUSION—INFORMATION FOR EMIGRANTS.

"The pride to rear an independent head,
 And give the lips we love unborrowed bread—
 To see a land from shadowy forests won,
 In youthful beauty wedded to the sun—
 To skirt our homes with harvests widely sown,
 And call the blooming landscape all our own,
 Our children's heritage in prospect long—
 These are the hopes, high minded hopes, and strong,
 That beckon England's wanderer o'er the brine,
 To lands where foreign constellations shine."

IN the foregoing Chapters I have endeavoured to place before the reader a true picture of South Australia as it was, and as it is. Adhering as closely as possible to a simple detail of facts, I have endeavoured to avoid anything which might be construed as *puffery*; and following out this principle, I shall now wind up this publication with a few remarks on emigration, accompanied with a few hints and some general information regarding the Colony of which this treats, intended for the use of such as may have determined on emigrating, as well as those who may be in quest of information, to assist them in making up their minds on this important question.

People are not likely to leave their native country, which, to every one, is associated with many endearing recollections, unless they have some well grounded hope of bettering their condition. But here I cannot help remarking on the absurd ideas which many emigrants imbibe regarding the Colonies which they fix on as the scene of their labours. These parties read a favourable—it may be a rather over-coloured—picture of a Colony, and thereupon form such high-flown notions regarding it as never

fail of being hurtful. Everything seems bright before them—difficulties and hardships are overlooked ; and the consequence is, that when they arrive in the Settlement, and find it, after all, nothing more than a portion of this same globe, where not only labour—vigorous and persevering labour—but in many cases toil and hardship, must be undergone in order to support life or secure comfort, they are instantly precipitated from the height to which they had clambered in fancy to a sense of sober truth—all the castles they had built in the air vanish—their day dreams are at an end—they find that the streets, instead of being paved with gold, are scarcely yet paved with what would be more useful, though perhaps less ornamental—and instead of the trees bearing dollars, nothing is to be found but large gum trees filled with chattering parrots. The emigrant's glorious anticipations being thus disappointed, as extremes generally meet, he is precipitated from one extreme to the other—he cannot even look on things as they are, but sits down listlessly and spends what means he has, or immediately sets out in search of some other *El Dorada*, where he hopes to be more fortunate.

Emigrants cannot be too guarded in forming their ideas as to their prospects in any Colony ; and first impressions on arrival are to be equally guarded against. Where an emigrant sets out, not with the idea of amassing a fortune at will, but under the rational idea that only by patient industry, prudence, and sobriety, will he succeed—disappointment will seldom follow. He may not make a fortune, but he will get for himself a good home, with the necessaries, and many of the comforts of life, and those are all that human nature require, or can enjoy.

And should not this prove a sufficient inducement to emigrate with many farmers, tradesmen, and others, who

in this country can scarcely manage to make both ends meet—whose industry is cramped and overbalanced by heavy rents and other burdens—and who struggle on from year to year with little better prospect before them than to receive for themselves and their children, as a recompense for their industry and perseverance, “the parish pittance and the pauper’s grave.”

To such persons, the hope

“ To rear an independent head,

And give the lips *they* love unborrowed bread,”

must surely prove a sufficient inducement to

“ Seek a home in some far distant clime,”

severe though the pang may be to part with country, kindred, and friends.

Persons emigrating to South Australia now have many advantages over those who have preceded them. The Colony is now fairly established and stocked, and the emigrant on his arrival has few hardships to encounter compared with those which his predecessors had to face. The early Settlers have borne the burden and heat of the day. They were subjected to such privations as the pioneers of colonization have invariably to submit to ; but their labours have paved the way for such as follow them. They had to explore the wilds of the untrodden forests, seeking for suitable locations—they had to import their stock, provisions, &c. from distant places, at great cost and risk—they were unacquainted with the capacity of the soil—ignorant even of the seasons—and laboured under many other disadvantages which do not now exist. Newly arrived emigrants can now walk into a comfortable house—can, in a very short time, and with little trouble, fix on a location with buildings and improvements if they choose—stock of every kind is plentiful and cheap—the seasons are

known—roads intersect the country in every direction—and therefore, comparatively speaking, the emigrant who lands on these shores has an easy task before him, and a much better defined prospect as to how he can employ his capital and industry to the best advantage.

The present depressed state of trade in Australia is looked on by many as discouraging to emigration, and injurious to the profitable investment of capital. Than this a greater misconception could not exist. The depression, instead of deterring people from emigrating, should prove a strong inducement to do so, especially with such as have a little capital. Money is now of more value than ever it was, and can be invested in land or stock on more advantageous terms; therefore the present crisis presents an opportunity to small capitalists of obtaining land, and cattle or sheep to stock it, at a much smaller outlay than at any previous period of the history of South Australia, and with a certainty that such land and stock will increase in value as the financial distress disappears.

A reference to the prices of stock, and of the various articles of every-day consumption, at present, as compared with the years 1839 and 1840, will distinctly show the truth of this reasoning:—

	1839-40.		1842.
Cows,	£20 each. ...		£8 to £10.
Sheep,	40s. to 50s. each. ...		12s. to 18s.
Horses,	£50 to £100. ...		£20 to £40.
Flour,	£50 to £80 per ton. ...		£20 to £24.
Bread,	2s. to 3s. the loaf. ...		8d. to 10d.
Butcher meat,	1s. per lb. ...		4d.
Potatoes,	4d. to 6d. ...		1d.
Butter,	2s. to 3s. 6d. ...		1s. 3d. to 1s 6d.
House rent 10s. for a miserable cottage ...			2s. to 4s. for a comfortable one.

It is unnecessary to carry the comparison farther.

Suffice it to say that most other articles have fallen in price in an equal proportion.

Now notwithstanding the present depressed state of trade in this country, capital is superabundant, and available channels for investment are few. The Colonies afford a favourable and extensive field in this respect, by which the surplus capital of Britain may be drawn off, and safely and profitably employed in a manner doubly useful, inasmuch as that which is withdrawn from competition will be the means of rendering more valuable that which remains in the mother country.

The pursuits in which capitalists may find an outlet for their property are numerous in South Australia. Sheep, cattle, and agricultural farming, cultivation of the vine and other fruits and products, mining, whale fishing, &c., are pursuits in which capital may be invested with safety and to advantage; and as the Colony advances, other openings will present themselves. Mercantile pursuits, judiciously managed, will yield good returns, although at present there is quite a sufficiency of persons engaged in commerce for the state of the Colony. Money invested in land or stock will yield good interest, as from 8 to 10 per cent. can easily be got on mortgage security. The banks give seven per cent. on capital lodged for a period of twelve months. Persons might therefore derive a good income from the interest of a few thousand pounds, without entering into any active employment, or running any risk.

But small capitalists, especially practical farmers, are probably better adapted for the Colony than any other class, and the inducements held out to them are—a productive soil, cheap land, and plenty of elbow room.

Land is sold, as previously stated, by public auction, the

upset price being *One Pound* per acre ; and in the interval between the quarterly sales any land which may have remained unsold can be taken off at the upset price. As there is abundance of land surveyed in South Australia, emigrants will find no difficulty in making a purchase at any time. The Colonization commissioners in London, and their agents throughout the country, receive money intended for the purchase of land, and give orders on the local government to the amount lodged, which orders are taken as money in the Colony. The only advantage of this arrangement is, that it affords a safe medium for remitting the money to the Colony without charge for exchange; but it must be borne in mind, that the money so lodged with the Commissioners can only be applied for the purchase of land—the emigrant cannot get specie for his order in the Colony, unless he can dispose of it to some other party.

Should the emigrant not feel disposed to purchase land, or should his means not permit his doing so, he can obtain a farm on lease at a cheap rate. The usual rental for unimproved farms is from 3s. to 5s. per annum per acre ; but of course this varies according to the description of land, the locality, &c.

The South Australian Company, which has already been frequently alluded to, hold out many inducements to persons possessed of limited capital, to settle as tenants under their auspices. The Company own a great surface of country lands, which they let on twenty-one year leases, to respectable farmers, at a small yearly rental—the tenant having the privilege to purchase the farm at any time during the lease, at a reasonable price, which is fixed at the time of taking the lease. The directors in the contracts for leases entered into in this country, engage that

the tenant shall have submitted to his choice on arrival in the Colony, five portions of land, each equal in extent to the quantity contracted for; and, should the tenant not be satisfied with any of these, he may cancel the contract.

The Company also assist their tenants, if necessary, with an advance of capital, to be expended in improvements on the farm. They have already leased about 9000 acres of country land, so that there is a pretty numerous tenantry established in the province under their auspices, and a beginning made in forming an agricultural population of the most promising character. The husbandry operations of the Company's tenantry will be seen from the following table, which shows the land they had under crop last season, *i. e.* in 1842:—

Wheat, (acres)	.	.	.	.	.	.	1602
Barley,	.	.	.	.	.	.	358
Oats,	.	.	.	.	.	.	76
Maize,	.	.	.	.	.	.	80
							<hr/> 2116

The value of the crops from the above, at a very moderate calculation as to quantity, and not higher than 5s. per bushel for wheat and oats, and 4s. per bushel for barley and maize, amounts to upwards of £10,000.

Subjoined is an account of the market prices at the latest date received from the Colony:—

Wheat, 7s. 6d. to 9s. per bushel; fine flour, £22 to £24 per ton; second flour £20 per ton; bread, 8d. to 10d. per four pound loaf; beef, $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. to $4\frac{1}{2}$ d. per pound; mutton, 3d. to $4\frac{1}{2}$ d. per pound; potatoes, £8 to £10 per ton, or 1d. per pound; eggs, 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d per dozen; fresh butter, 1s. 3d. per lb.; cheese, 9d. to 1s. per pound; vegetables during winter are plentiful and cheap—say

green peas, 1s. 6d. per peck ; cabbages, one penny each ; cauliflowers from 2d. to 3d. each ; carrots, 3d. per bunch ; turnips, 2d. to 3d. per bunch ; raddishes, 1d. per dozen ; onions, 2d. per bunch ; and all other kinds of vegetables equally cheap. Clothing, and other articles imported from Britain or other countries, are in most cases high priced. The important articles of tea and sugar must be excepted, however, as these are imported on a small duty, and are consequently cheaper than in England.

To mechanics, labourers, &c., it is necessary to say but little. In such a Colony as that under consideration, it will be evident to every one, that a working man has prospects very much superior to what they are in this country. I think it but justice to state, however, that at the time I left the Colony, labour of every description was plentiful, and, with some exceptions, continued to be so, up till the date of the latest accounts I have received. But good shepherds, and persons acquainted with pastoral and agricultural pursuits, will never carry their industry to a bad market in South Australia. The rapid increase of stock of all kind, shows that a constant influx of shepherds, &c., is necessary, even without taking into account the numerous capitalists who are monthly arriving, and creating farther demands for servants. The supply of free labour will always be regulated according to the sales of land, as one-half of the purchase money is devoted to the laudable purpose of conveying mechanics and others to the Colony free of expense. So soon as the present Land Sales Act has been fairly established in the Colony, and funds derived therefrom, her Majesty's Commissioners will be in a position again to grant free passages to the Colony.

So many books and pamphlets have lately been pub-

lished, giving information regarding the selection of ships and the necessaries for the voyage, that a very few remarks on these subjects will suffice here.

The Act of Parliament passed during the session of 1842, "for regulating the carriage of passengers in merchant vessels," secures many advantages to passengers more effectually than the exertions of private individuals could do. By this Act, the number of passengers allowed to be taken on board any ship, is limited according to her tonnage, by such regulations as will secure the emigrants from any inconvenience from crowding, and the important considerations of sufficient height between decks and proper ventilation, are also legislated upon. It likewise renders it imperative on the owners or charterers to provide a sufficient supply of provisions, water, medical stores and instruments, and medical attendance.

In fixing on a ship, passengers would do well, if practicable, to inspect the vessel personally, and to choose their own cabins or berths; and an agreement should be got from the owners or brokers in writing, specifying the quantity and quality of the provisions and water to be allowed them, the day on which the vessel is to sail, &c., as some unprincipled shipowners and shipmasters pay no attention to verbal agreements, and once out at sea no redress can be obtained. Caution should therefore be observed, in selecting a conveyance, to treat with parties of known respectability; and mechanics and labourers will find the Government Emigration Agent a valuable and trustworthy friend in giving advice.

The cost of a first cabin passage to South Australia is usually about £50 to £60; second or intermediate cabins, £30 to £40 each person; steerage, from £15 to £20. The rates of passage money have been consider-

ably reduced of late, and it is probable a still farther reduction will take place.

Intermediate and steerage passengers will find a small quantity of extra stores add to there comfort, such as a few cases of preserved meats, cheese, ham, or bacon, &c. A filter is very useful on board ship, as the water frequently gets bad; and a supply of carbonate of soda and tartaric acid will be found valuable in the warm latitudes.

Passengers must find themselves in bedding, &c., and as little or no washing can be done on board, a good supply of serviceable clothing, not easily soiled, will be found necessary, and will prove useful after arrival. A small quantity of marine soap should also be laid in.

Cleanliness and regularity are essentially requisite on board ship, both for comfort and the preservation of health; and every care should be taken to maintain a good understanding with fellow passengers, as, on so long a voyage, and with little to engage the attention, discord is very apt to creep in, and mar the harmony of the passengers. Many means of amusement will be found, and persons may improve themselves in various ways where they have so much leisure time. Singing, reading, and gymnastic exercises, are often resorted to; and in fine weather, a dance on the quarter-deck often enlivens the evening.

In conclusion, let me again press on the earnest consideration of all intending emigrants the following admonitions:—Beware of indulging too sanguine anticipations—avoid the rock of fortune making, on which too many emigrants split—go steadily and energetically to work in carrying out your plans—confine yourselves to strict economy—labour patiently and industriously—and live soberly. These are absolutely requisite in order to ob-

tain a living in Britain—they are not less necessary in South Australia, or in any of the British Colonies, although in the latter the reward will unquestionably be greater than in the former.

Should these pages prove the means of assisting any of my fellow-countrymen to amend their condition, it will be to me a source of much gratification, and I will rejoice should I, at any future period in my wanderings through South Australia, meet with a prosperous family who have been in any way assisted by my experience.

As a colonist, I will be happy to see South Australia prosper, by an influx of emigrants from the mother country. As a member of the same human family, I will be gratified to see individuals and families removed from poverty and want to plenty and independence. If, on the other hand, any single individual should, after reading these pages, determine on emigrating, and be disappointed, it will be to me a subject of extreme regret, but I will have the satisfaction of knowing that I have conscientiously spoken the truth; and if any emigrant look for more than I have said he is likely to receive, he will have himself to blame, not me.

APPENDIX.

WHILE the preceding Chapters were in course of passing through the press, news has been received from South Australia up to the end of the year 1842, and some items of intelligence are so important, as bearing on the facts adduced in the foregoing pages, that it has been considered proper to add them in the form of an appendix :—

WOOL FOR THE HOME MARKET.—In this, the sixth year of our colonial existence, the clip of the season will be little short of from 300,000 to 330,000 fleeces.—*South Australian Register*, Nov., 1842.

SUCCESSFUL MINING OPERATIONS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

(*From the South Australian Register*, Nov., 1842.)

A few weeks ago, we had the pleasure of stating, that the proprietors of the “Wheal Gawler Lead Mines” were so encouraged by the report of Mr Robert Stagg, of the Governor and Company’s office, Middleton, Teesdale, Durham, on the quality of the lead and silver ore found upon their estate, that they had determined to pursue their mining operations upon a more extensive scale than ever.

That pleasure is, however, considerably heightened by the fact, that since the above announcement was made, four distinct lodes of exceedingly rich metal have been found at Glen Osmond, on the property of Osmond Gilles, Esq., our late Colonial Treasurer, a circumstance not altogether conclusive of the fact, perhaps, but one which certainly justifies us in supposing that the whole range of hills from the neighbourhood of Adelaide up to Cape Jervis, is one continued succession of valuable mineral deposit.

Unwilling, in a matter of such grave importance to the country, to take the testimony of a second person on the subject, we made a visit in person to Glen Osmond yesterday, and, from having seen somewhat of the indications of valuable mines in the counties of Durham and Cumberland some years ago, we should say that those on Mr Gilles’ estate exceed the reasonable expectations of the least

sanguine of miners. So near the surface is the ore deposited, that one of the lodes is already laid bare upwards of a quarter of a mile from the base towards the summit of the hill, the indications throughout the whole of this continuous line being of the most satisfactory and encouraging nature. Of the remaining lodes, it is sufficient for the present to say, that their appearances are equally promising, although the workmen have not yet succeeded in laying them bare to the same extent. Every one at all acquainted with mining operations in the province, and hitherto a visitant to Glen Osmond, has expressed himself in terms of unbounded confidence in reference to the discovery, and has predicted its immense ultimate advantages, first to Mr Gilles and his family, and next to the Colony.

The average silver procured from the ore of the "Wheal Gawler" lead mines was twenty-four ounces per ton—that is to say, value for £6, 10s. sterling—and the same may be predicated, not only of the Glen Osmond, but of other mines to which the present discovery will, doubtless, inevitably lead. Of the working of these mines on a small scale paying the present proprietors, and that handsomely too, there is no manner whatever of doubt; but to subordinate them as much as possible to the general interests of the Colony, we are anxious to see the operations connected with them conducted upon a scale altogether beyond the reach of any two or three private Colonists, however influential their position, or successful their former enterprises.

CULTIVATED LAND.

(*From the South Australian Register, Nov. 1842.*)

"The following is an abstract of returns of the quantity of land at present under cultivation in the Colony, as published in last week's official *Gazette*:—

Number of Acres returned as in Cultivation in the Province of South Australia on the 19th October, 1842:—

Acres of Wheat,	-	-	-	-	-	13,892
“ Barley,	-	-	-	-	-	2,668
“ Oats,	-	-	-	-	-	691
“ Maize,	-	-	-	-	-	846
“ Potatoes,	-	-	-	-	-	669
“ Turnips and other green crops,	-	-	-	-	-	229
“ Garden ground, &c.,	-	-	-	-	-	626
						<hr/> 19,641

The number of proprietors returned for the above quantity of cultivated land, 873.

To the above may be added the fact, that we have at this moment, grazing upon our hills and plains, from 350,000 to 400,000 sheep, from 2000 to 2500 horses, and from 25,000 to 30,000 head of horned cattle, besides pigs, goats, and sundry stock, all in the greatest abundance, and that, too, on a spot which, five years ago, was an unexplored wilderness. In addition to the above, our exports of wool, oil, whalebone, hides, seal-skins, and so forth, were last year estimated at £50,000, but, with our export of grain of the present season's growth, they will this year at least double, if not treble, the amount. In this, we are making no over-sanguine calculations, our statements being based upon authentic statistical returns.

There are large steam flour mills, and one windmill now grinding corn at 1s. and 1s. 6d. per bushel; there are several more building.

It will be seen from the above returns that the estimate I had formed of the amount of land under crops has been far more than realised.

The following is an Extract of a Letter from a Farmer in South Australia, dated 1st November, 1842.

“The state of the Colony is most flourishing. We have every thing to superabundance, and are exporting many articles, as butter, cheese, bark, &c., and shortly shall send quantities of wheat and flour to Sydney and the Mauritius.

“The season has been remarkably favourable for all agricultural purposes, as we have had rain every fortnight or ten days since March last to the present day; we have not, in fact, had above three warm days together this spring, though in the plains they had one hot wind that placed the crops in jeopardy, but rain falling the night after, many of them have been reinstated by it. The wool promises to be very good this season, there being no dust to soil the fleece after washing as there generally is. The wool, oil, wheat, and dairy produce will bring a large sum into the Colony this year, and we shall require, I hope, to pay little out of it. This is now one of the cheapest places to live in that can be found in the Queen's dominions. Our greatest want is domestic servants. I think that the most of the really useful labourers are in constant employment; those who make so great a figure on the public works are a set of useless creatures who were a pest at home, and continue a nuisance here, and ought never to have been palmed upon us at all. Almost

all the Irish are of that class. They can do but few things, and those most inefficiently, and are always discontented, and wanting larger pay, and more privileges than any other people; there is scarcely any settler will take them when they have tried a few of them. I have this year 57 acres of wheat, and 9 of barley sown, 10 of potatoes, and 3 or 4 of Cobbett's maize. We have broken up about 40 acres more for next year. The cattle increase most rapidly.

Extract of a Letter from Mr. W. B. Randell, dated Sept. 12, 1842.

"I have no doubt but this season South Australia will produce nearly, if not quite, three times as much grain (wheat in particular) as will be required for its consumption for the ensuing year. We have every thing in the greatest abundance here that the necessities of man require. Wheat 8s. per bushel; barley 4s. 6d. to 5s.; beef and mutton 4d. per lb.; and as good as the best in the world; I myself sell wholesale at less than 3d. per lb. the best bullocks and sheep. Our steers, under three years old, average from six to seven cwt.; our sheep (wethers) two years old, about 60 lbs. each, and the quality of both as good as I have ever seen in any part of the world. My sales of cattle amount from twenty to thirty head per month, and above 200 sheep for some time past."

NEW DISCOVERIES.

(From the Southern Australian.)

Mr. Deputy Surveyor-General Burr has discovered a splendid track of country to the northward and eastward of Flinder's Range. The new country (which is described as like Mount Barker District) commences on the east side of Flinder's Range, proceeding about north from Crystal Brook, and it is of very considerable extent. It is well wooded, for the most part with white gums, and in the low country some casuarina. The grass is of the best sort, and very thick. The supply of water is abundant, and of excellent quality, in some of the smaller gullies trickling over the rocks, and in the larger ones forming large water holes in swamps surrounded with high reeds. The country teems with cockatoos and other birds, and the natives are very numerous—both indications of good country. The land is admirably adapted for flocks and herds, and we believe the discoverer considers, from the appearance of the ranges to the north and east as seen from Mount Arden, that the good country will be found to extend in that direction to a very great distance.

To the eastward of Campbell's Range, much excellent country has also been discovered. This range is situated immediately behind the Broughton River, and to the eastward of it the country, although thinly wooded (there being only the casuarina, and that very sparingly scattered about,) it is said to be well adapted for sheep or cattle, there being plenty of grass, and a good supply of water.

These discoveries are of vast importance to the province, showing, as they do, that the good land is not so limited in its extent as was generally supposed.

THE HARVEST.—The harvest has now commenced in earnest in the district of Adelaide, all the early crops of wheat being ripe, and several fields having already been cut down. All the crops look remarkably well, scarcely any smut being visible except in those which were sown late. The specimens of grain with which we have been favoured are quite equal to any we have seen in Mark Lane.—*Southern Australian*, Nov. 15.

WILLUNGA DISTRICT.—The weather has continued very favourable for the crops. The wheat harvest will soon be on. A few spots of smut have made their appearance, but the crops will be much better than last year. The wheat is better eared than last year. The late high winds have beat down some of the heavy crops, yet not to do much injury. The maize is much improved and looking well; the millet is not doing so well in consequence of the seed not having been sufficiently ripe.—*Correspondent of the Southern Australian*, Nov. 22.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BUTTER.—A gentleman who has recently received a present of a small cask of butter from Adelaide, sent us a couple of pounds by way of sample, on Saturday, and we must say that we have not tasted better butter for many years. It is superior to the general run of the butter sold in Sydney—equal, in fact, to Glenlee, Belmont, and other first-rate qualities. Our Southern friends may be proud of their dairies.—*Sydney Herald*.

